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Khartoum envoy meets Garang
KAMPALA (R) — The Sudanese government and rebel leader John Garang opened talks under Ugandan mediation on Monday to end more than 10 years of civil war. Sudan's representative, Minister for Economic Planning and Investment Ali Al Hajj Mohammed, said the talks had made some headway but details would be worked out Tuesday. The talks were held under the auspices of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who is keen to end the conflict along his northern border. State radio said he told the two delegations that "secondary issues" were holding up a solution to Africa's twin problems of independent decision-making and underdevelopment. Mr. Mohammed said Colonel Garang, leader of the fractious Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), had agreed in principle to attend a further round of peace talks known as the Abuja round after the Nigerian capital in which they were held in 1992. But further Abuja talks depended on the reaction of other factions of the SPLA, which has splintered in the past 18 months, he said. Col. Garang was not available for comment.

Arafat to Clinton: Time running out
SANAA (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, addressing U.S. President Bill Clinton, warned Monday of war in the Middle East if a speedy solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict were not found soon. "The Balkanisation of the region is coming if there is to be no peaceful settlement. I say this to Clinton," Arafat said at a meeting early in the day with a number of Arab reporters in Sanaa. "Stability in the region is important for U.S. and European interests," he added. "Balkanisation" is a term used earlier this century to describe the process of breaking up a region into small, mutually hostile political units as in the Balkans after World War I. Mr. Arafat was in Yemen as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held talks with two neighbouring key allies, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He warned that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, with whom Mr. Christopher is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, "will only have himself to blame for the crazy escalation of terrorism against our Palestinian people."

Egypt may boost mission in Baghdad

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is considering sending a more senior diplomat to its caretaker mission in Baghdad to improve services to the Egyptian community in Iraq, a Foreign Ministry source said Monday. He was commenting on a report in the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram quoting Foreign Minister Amr Musa as denying that Egypt would visit Cairo but adding that Egypt might strengthen its mission in Baghdad. The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yasser Arafat, has been trying to reconcile Iraq and Egypt.

Algerian delegation visits Morocco

RABAT (R) — A member of Algeria's five-man collective presidency arrived in Morocco for high-level talks Monday, a month after the two countries exchanged new ambassadors. Diplomats said Redha Malek, who is also foreign minister, was expected to meet King Hassan and Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelatif Filali in a brief visit. Ties between the two neighbours, strained for a long time because of conflict in the Western Sahara, were soured in January when Algeria interpreted comments by King Hassan as implicit support for Muslim fundamentalists in Algeria. In a statement at Rabat airport, Mr. Malek said the Algerian leadership had decided "to send one of its members to resume the dialogue between our two countries at the highest level."

Denktash threatens to boycott U.N. talks

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said Monday he would stay away from U.N.-sponsored talks if they object to his community to make peace with Greek Cypriots on unacceptable terms. "I will not go to New York to attend the U.N. talks if the Turkish Cypriots are forced to reach agreement with a Greek-Cypriot administration that does not want a federation," Mr. Denktash told a meeting at Istanbul's Marmara university. Cyprus President-elect Glafos Clerides has asked for talks on how to reunite the divided island, originally scheduled for March 25, to be postponed, possibly to mid-April.

Angolan peace talks set for Friday

ISSON (R) — Peace talks between the Angolan government and the rebel movement UNITA will be held in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa Friday, J.N. representative in Angola Margaret Anstee was quoted as saying on Monday. UNITA had agreed to accept U.N. measures to guarantee the safety and security of the UNITA delegation, the Portuguese news agency Lusa quoted Ms. Anstee as saying in its Sunday edition report. The two sides have been locked in renewed conflict since the end of December and a first round of peace talks in Addis Ababa in late January failed to produce a ceasefire (see page 8).

Aspin hospitalised

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defence Secretary Les Aspin was reported Monday to be "clearly improved" after being hospitalised late Sunday for shortness of breath attributed to a "mild pre-existing heart condition," the Pentagon said. A statement released at the Pentagon said Mr. Aspin's physicians at George Washington University Hospital had examined him at mid-morning and said him "to be clearly improved."

Egyptians leave for talks with Sudan

JIRO (R) — An Egyptian delegation left for Khartoum Monday for a new round of talks on a dispute with Sudan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Talks will be at a lower level than previous rounds. The semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram said the team is led by an ambassador, Ihab Muqbil, rather than presidential adviser Osama Al Baz. Baz excused himself on grounds that he was involved in a diplomatic mission to resolve a dispute over Palestinians expelled from Israel, it said.

Christopher arrives in Israel voicing hope for resumption of peace talks

U.S. envoy assures Saudi Arabia, Kuwait of support, pays dramatic Beirut visit to meet Lebanese leaders

Combined agency despatches

TEL AVIV — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said upon his arrival in Israel Monday he hoped Middle East peace talks would resume soon.

Mr. Christopher, visiting Israel for two days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, is ending a week-long peace mission in the region.

"I hope that the negotiations will be resumed at the very earliest date," he said at Ben-Gurion airport after landing in a flight from Cyprus.

"I hope with the help of the United States as a partner we can build this process towards a real breakthrough rather than a missed opportunity."

Mr. Christopher told Foreign Minister Shimon Peres the purpose of the tour was to revive the peace process as soon as possible.

"President Bill Clinton has sent me to this region to assess, to consult and to focus the parties all the parties on the importance of resuming the process at the very earliest date," he said.

Before leaving Cyprus for Israel earlier in the evening, Mr. Christopher said that a consensus has emerged among the Arab countries he has visited during his whirlwind visit to renew the process as soon as possible.

Mr. Christopher has to overcome a Palestinian commitment to stay away from the talks until Israel returns some 400 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon two months ago.

A dramatic visit to Beirut earlier Monday focused on the expellees. Lebanese Foreign Minister Fairs Bouez said at a news conference with the U.S. diplomat that Lebanon would be satisfied if the Palestinians return "during an acceptable period of time."

The soft-line stand echoed that of Syria, the main power behind the Lebanese government. Damascus said Saturday it would not derail the talks for the sake of the expellees.

Mr. Christopher emphasised the traditionally close U.S.-Israel relationship in his remarks to Mr. Peres.

"The ties between our two countries have proven strong and resilient," he said, "and President Clinton is determined to make them even stronger."

Mr. Peres told Mr. Christopher: "We know that you are representing an administration ... that has started anew the process of peace and we do hope that this is the first step to the renewal of the peace negotiations."

Mr. Christopher, who has greeted by a massive police presence, was whisked off to occupied Jerusalem.

He will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and members of the Palestinian delegations to the talks during his two-day visit, as well as tour Israel's frontlines with Syria and Lebanon.

Earlier Monday, Mr. Christopher

became the first senior U.S. official to visit Beirut in a decade Monday, flying by helicopter to suburban Yara on the riskiest leg of his Middle East tour.

Mr. Christopher met with Lebanese leaders under immense security during his two-hour stop at the Lebanese Defence Ministry. He then helicoptered back to Larnaca, Cyprus, for a brief stopover before leaving for Israel.

Mr. Christopher said later Lebanon assured him it wanted the peace talks to resume soon.

Mr. Christopher held talks with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and Foreign Minister Bouez at the heavily-guarded Defence Ministry on the eastern edge of Beirut.

"I have heard today from the Lebanese leaders ... that they agree like other leaders in this region ... there should be an early return to the negotiations and parties should return to the table as soon as possible," he told a news conference.

Asked what he could have achieved during such brief talks in Lebanon, Mr. Christopher said: "A commitment from the Lebanese government to resume (peace) negotiations as soon as possible."

"Our consultations have given me a better sense of the road ahead. It won't be easy," he said.

"But I think we have begun a process here which will enable us to work effectively together in the future provided the parties are prepared to come back to the negotiations and do

their part."

Mr. Bouez said Lebanon still wanted to see the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which demands Israel immediately take back the Palestinian expellees trapped in South Lebanon for nine weeks.

"It is very dangerous to open the way for the interpretation of United Nations decisions," Mr. Bouez said when asked about a U.S.-Israeli deal for the Jewish state to speed up a judicial review of expellees' cases.

"But at the same time we think the implementation of the 799 decision during an acceptable period of time with respect to the unity of this decision will help the peace negotiations and will create a positive atmosphere for restarting the peace process."

"The commitment of the Clinton administration is strong enough (for Lebanon) to pursue the peace talks," Mr. Bouez said.

Mr. Christopher said he told Lebanon Washington "is willing to commit itself to be a full partner to move this process forward," restating what he told leaders in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

But a U.S. role was not promised by his predecessor James Baker in the peace talks, which started 16 months ago.

"There is a process under way. It's in no-one's interest that the peace process should be held up, be held hostage to their (the deportees) expulsions."

(Continued on page 5)



"SECURITY" CHECK: An Israeli soldier checks Warren Christopher was scheduled to arrive. Four a Palestinian boy in Arab East Jerusalem on Palestinians were arrested after three Israeli vehicles were set ablaze (AFP photo)

Christopher reportedly plans to seek Israeli timetable for Golan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — After getting Syrian support to resume Mideast peace talks, Secretary of State Warren Christopher will ask Israel to define its offer to pull back in the Golan Heights, an Israeli daily reported Monday.

Palestinian officials said they still do not expect Syria to resume negotiations until the issue of 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel is settled.

The report on the Golan in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth came hours before Mr. Christopher was to arrive to meet with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, told Israel Radio she would be surprised if Damascus agrees to resume talks before the expulsion issue is resolved. She said this remained the stance of the Palestinians, too.

"We have explained very clearly that there are very serious obstacles that we cannot overcome... we are not saying that these are preconditions. We are saying that these are obstacles that we cannot surmount," Dr. Ashrawi said.

The Palestinians planned to discuss the expulsions, accusations of Israeli human rights violations, the role of the United States in peace talks and its relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), sources close to the Palestinian delegation said.

The sources said the delegates would be willing to consider a phased return of the evictees if Israel would pledge not to use expulsions again against Palestinians.

Israel has agreed to return 101 of the men immediately and the

remainder by the end of the year. Mr. Christopher is now expected to urge Israel to expedite the return by accelerating a promised judicial review of the expulsions.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he did not anticipate Mr. Christopher would demand further Israeli action.

Mr. Peres, who met with Mr. Christopher in Washington last week, was to meet him at the airport later Monday. No other meetings with Israeli leaders were scheduled until Tuesday.

Ahronoth quoted unnamed political sources as saying they expected Mr. Christopher to ask Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to spell out Israel's line of withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for peace with Syria.

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'No crisis' after sudden U.N. inspection in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. weapons inspectors rummaged through three Iraqi military sites for hidden ballistic missiles in surprise searching Monday. It was not immediately known what they found, but a team leader said there was "no crisis."

An Iraqi official said the teams found nothing.

Chief inspector Nikita Smidovich said he would first report to the U.N. special commission about Monday's findings.

"You should not assume there is a crisis here. No crisis," Mr. Smidovich told reporters after returning to Baghdad's Sheraton Hotel.

The search followed reports that a 13-member ballistic missile team led by Frenchman Patrice Palanque had come across evidence that Iraq was hiding ballistic missile facilities.

U.N. experts had said it was a major finding and had not ruled

out the possibility that Iraq is hiding missiles, capable of carrying nuclear war heads at the site.

Mr. Smidovich, whose team of 20 inspectors flew in from Bahrain at dawn, said the surprise inspections of several sites were "most specifically related to the long-range missiles."

The Russian's group arrived in Iraq about the same time as the team of 13 inspectors, which had been due to leave the country Monday, announced it was staying on.

"It was a specific task to check several sites. To check certain information ... in these locations there might be items prohibited by 687," Mr. Smidovich told reporters at the end of the day's inspections. "It was an important visit."

He was referring to Security

(Continued on page 5)

Fighting kills 7 in S. Somalia; aid worker shot dead

MOGADISHU (AP) — Fighting between rival factions killed seven Somalis and wounded 21 in the southern port of Kismayu Monday, and gunmen killed an Irish nurse in a roadside ambush near Mogadishu, military officials said.

The Kismayu fighting was the most serious in Somalia in weeks and came a day before U.S. forces in the area were to start heading home. A ceremony scheduled for Tuesday to turn over control of the security operation in Kismayu to Belgian forces was postponed.

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U.N. report estimates aid need at \$250 million, page 2

U.N. sets up Balkan war crimes court

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council took aim at "ethnic cleansing," mass killings and systematic rape in the Balkans by deciding Monday to set up the first war crimes tribunal since World War II.

Diplomats hoped their unanimous vote to approve creation of a war crimes court would deter further atrocities in former Yugoslavia, where fighting rages on. However, the establishment of the court itself and its rules for operation are still months away, and Bosnia's U.N. ambassador cast doubt on whether war crimes will stop.

"We should not kid ourselves

that war criminals are going to be deterred by just the establishment of a tribunal," Mohammad Sacirbey, the Bosnian envoy, told reporters.

French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee said the resolution sends war criminals a "clear message that they will be held responsible for their acts."

Serbs, Croats and Muslims have all allegedly committed crimes in the war that broke out as Yugoslavia fell apart in mid-1991. U.N. investigators have blamed the Serbs for the worst atrocities.

Among those who may face war crimes proceedings are Ser-

bian President Slobodan Milosevic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, and eight other Serb or Croat military leaders or prison camp commandants.

The U.S. State Department identified them in December as probable war criminals.

While the 15-nation Security Council worked to end war crimes, the United States was moving to force humanitarian supplies through to starving residents of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Clinton administration was preparing to drop supplies into eastern Bosnia from airplanes, taking the place of stranded truck supply convoys (see page 8).

Shells land near exiles' tent camp

MARI AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Artillery shells fired by Israeli or its militia ally crashed Monday near a camp housing about 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel. Military sources said no casualties were reported.

The shelling, which appeared to be aimed at suspected hideouts of resistance fighters, carried into a 10th day the latest wave of hostilities between Israel and Hizbollah.

The violence was overlapped with a tour of the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is trying to revive the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Israeli troops and allied irregulars of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia are battling guerrillas of Hizbollah and other resistance groups in South Lebanon.

The shell blasts shook the evictees out of their late morning slumber on the first fasting day marking the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Many rushed out of the tents, hair dishevelled, hastily pulling up their pants, to shout questions to reporters about what was happening around their camp in southeast Lebanon.

Smoke and dust billowed from a hill about 500 metres south of the camp. Lebanese army officers manning a checkpoint near the camp said the hill was hit by five rounds of Howitzers at 9 a.m.

Pieces seem to fall into places as Christopher pursues Mideast mission

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite the low expectations with which he started his Middle East tour, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher seems to have succeeded in achieving progress in his mission to put the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks back on track.

While none of the countries Mr. Christopher since Thursday visited has publicly announced its agreement to the resumption of the talks, all have indicated willingness to return to the negotiating table as soon as possible.

In Jordan, His Majesty King Hussein warned against any "substantial delay" in the talks, while Syrian officials said Damascus would work together with the United States to resume the talks in "a convenient and admirable atmosphere." Egypt pledged to help

restart the talks, suspended since Dec. 17 when Israel expelled to South Lebanon about 400 Palestinians it claims are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Islamic Jihad.

All Arab leaders who met with Mr. Christopher continue to consider the evictee question an impediment to resuming the talks, but they seem willing to accept a compromise to the problem, even if it may fall short of a complete implementation of Security Council Resolution 799.

The importance of the peace process seems to outweigh the concern for the immediate return of the expelled Palestinians. But a face-saving settlement to the issue, especially for the Palestinians, is the minimum prerequisite for a decision to go back to the negotiating table.

It is in this direction that Mr. Christopher is reportedly

directing his effort in his first foreign mission since he took office last month.

Israel's expulsion of the 417 Palestinians might have pushed the Rabin government into a tight corner, but its worst impact befell the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which will be committing political suicide if it agrees to resume the peace process before an acceptable solution to this debacle is found.

The PLO will die too, only slower, if it gives up the talks.

The risk in abandoning the peace process is immense for the PLO because this means virtually conceding defeat to Palestinian hardliners who opposed the negotiations from the very beginning. If that happens, though it is very unlikely, Israel would have delivered to the hardliners what they battled for two years to achieve: The abortion of the peace process and eventually the leadership of the Palestinian people.

Considering the U.S. decision to stick by the deal it struck with Israel on the evictees, the fate of Mr. Christopher's mission will thus largely depend on his talks with Israeli officials and Palestinian leaders when he starts his negotiations in Israel and the occupied territories Tuesday.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mr. Christopher is reportedly going to push Israel into accelerating the review of individual cases of the expellees, probably working to get it to outline a timetable for a phased return of the exiles.

That could save face for the Palestinians and Israelis, prompting both to make a compromise to save the peace process. The chances that they will accept such a solution are high, considering the declared

interest the two parties have in keeping the peace process rolling, and what both see as the nightmarish scenario that the failure of Mr. Christopher's mission will entail.

The PLO will have to accept such a compromise because it cannot afford to let the peace process slip away, nurturing the support of Hamas in the occupied territories through what will be perceived as the futility of peaceful negotiations to fulfil the aspirations of the Palestinian people. The PLO's support in the occupied territories will fade away as Hamas will claim a larger backing from the Palestinians.

This is something that neither Israel nor its Arab partners in the negotiations want to see happening.

Combine that with the negative impact an end to the peace process will have on Israel if it is believed to be responsible for it, and optimism for a

softening of the Israeli position on the evictees is in line.

Also, Mr. Christopher has something to offer to both parties in return for sending home successful in his first foreign policy test as secretary of state.

To the Arabs, his pledge to be more involved in the peace talks — a full partner though the term is yet to be better clarified — will be encouraging on the grounds that it might entail U.S. pressure on Israel during what has thus been a dead end negotiations. An Arab wish would be met.

By getting Israel out of the corner on the evictee issue, Mr. Christopher would have helped Israel out of its crisis without having to face more U.N. action, with the U.S. not heeding Arab demands to exercise pressure on Israel. That would be a push that the Rabin government would welcome and present to the Israeli public.

Another pressing element on the PLO to facilitate Mr. Christopher's mission and accept what he will offer on the evictees is the willingness of other Arab parties to go back to the talks.

Jordan, Syria and Lebanon have indicated they want to restart the peace talks, but it will be extremely difficult for them to do that without the PLO, appearing to have abandoned the Palestinian people. Accordingly, they are expected to apply behind-the-scenes pressure on the Palestinians to return to the negotiations.

At least to minimise its losses, the PLO is expected to give a positive answer to Mr. Christopher. Once that happens, other Arab parties would have no reason not to ask the U.S. to set a date for the reopening of the talks in Washington and Mr. Christopher's visit would eventually be declared a success.

Hundreds of thousands at risk in Sudan famine

By Paul Eedle
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Hundreds of thousands of people across vast areas of southern Sudan are at risk from famine because of civil war, tribal fighting and the disintegration of the main southern rebel movement.

Relief agencies have been able to resume flights to many towns but cannot reach many people in the bush. The agencies are restricted by lack of money and fear a new government offensive against the rebels could drive yet more people from their land.

Aid workers say the worst-hit region is Upper Nile province, where a split in the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Party (SPLA) has triggered three bouts of fighting between the Nuer and Dinka tribes since the end of 1991.

Giorgio Maragiano, senior adviser at the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP), said aid workers who had visited the town of Kongor, 1,000 kilometres south of Khartoum, had found starvation as serious as in the much more widely

publicised crisis in Somalia.

"You see really skeletons not even strong enough to discharge the food that came in the plane," he said.

Relief agencies estimate there are 145,000 people in the area around Kongor and two other towns, BOR and DUK, who have been displaced from their homes by the tribal fighting and are in extremely poor condition.

Assessment teams which have visited the area found no children under the age of five and judged that mortality rates were high.

Another 100,000 people, mostly from the cattle-herding Dinka, have been pushed southwards 350 kilometres or more to areas along the Kenyan border.

Aid workers say problems in Upper Nile have been made worse because the faction of the SPLA which dominated the area, the Nuer-led Nasir group, has begun to disintegrate.

They believe there is a danger the region could collapse into anarchy as individual commanders establish themselves as local warlords — such as in

Somalia, where the United States sent 24,000 troops in December to ensure food reached the starving.

On Jan. 17, a Nasir faction commander attacked a convoy of barges carrying United Nations food aid up the Nile, the first river shipment for several years, and looted 1,300 tonnes of grain — more than half the cargo.

"The SPLA, at least the Nasir faction, seems to be falling apart to such an extent that even the government is worried by the vacuum," one relief official said. "People are in a desperate situation because any kind of structure has fallen apart."

A second area of critical concern is Bahr Al Ghazal province, where relief agencies estimate 203,000 people in the countryside around the town of Wan Rog, 850 kilometres southwest of Khartoum, are surviving by gathering wild foods.

They have received no relief aid since 1990.

The government recaptured several towns in the area in an offensive last year against John Garang's Dinka-dominated

faction of the SPLA.

Aid workers have been able to reach some of the towns in the last few weeks, including Rumbek and Yirol, but found them almost totally empty of civilians and could not assess conditions in the surrounding bush, which is still controlled by Colonel Garang.

An assessment team which visited Parayang, some way to the east, found many of the 25,000 people there infected with a killer disease, Kala-Azar, spread by parasite-infected sandflies.

"Another fear is that this is the area where they (the government) are going to start an offensive very soon and that is going to produce a lot of suffering," a relief workers said.

He said the U.N. agencies were considering air-dropping food in areas where planes could not land. A regular pattern of aid flights to the region might also deter an offensive.

The third area worrying relief officials is the least accessible: The Nuba mountains west of Khartoum.

There have been persistent reports the government forced anywhere from 15,000 to

50,000 Nuba tribes people off their land into resettlement camps after they sided with the SPLA. Diplomats say many have been killed or imprisoned.

"We know that there is famine in these areas and the situation is very severe and we cannot access them," the relief worker said.

The WFP's Maragiano said an agreement last December between the U.N., the Sudanese government and three SPLA factions on improved access to famine areas by air, river and train had greatly helped relief work. The government was also donating all the grain required for aid during 1993.

But Western countries, which have been squeezing the Islamic government in Khartoum to cooperate more with aid agencies and stop alleged human rights abuses, had not yet pledged the \$100 million needed to pay for other needed food and transport.

"Now that the government is living up to what we always requested, it is up to the international community to do its part," Mr. Maragiano said.



Actor Charlton Heston puts on a bullet-proof vest as he starts a tour of Mogadishu harbour (AFP photo)

U.N. report estimates aid for Somalia in 1993 at \$250 million

MOGADISHU (AP) — A U.N. wish list seeks more than \$250 million this year to fight famine in Somalia and start rebuilding a country shattered by civil war, says a draft report obtained Sunday.

The largest funding requests were \$92.2 million for refugees and \$41.2 million for food aid, said the report obtained by the Associated Press.

The report includes proposed United Nations projects to restore water systems, schools, agriculture and health care. The plan hinges on allied forces continuing to maintain security in the lawless country.

The report, given Saturday to U.N. officials for final review, is to be presented at a donors' conference March 11 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. An aid package could provide a boost to peace talks between rival factions scheduled there four days later.

"Somalia as a nation and society lies in ruins," says the report, which estimates up to 500,000 people died last year of starvation or famine-related diseases during civil war.

Today, an estimated 1.5 million Somalis remain at great risk and up to three times that number need some form of assistance," the report says.

The draft report also said em-

ployment and farming programmes would each cost \$20 million and education \$7.6 million.

It calls for the beginning of a repatriation programme for 800,000 Somali refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti. "Further funds should be earmarked by donors for disbursement in the course of the year," says the report titled "Relief and Rehabilitation Programme for Somalia."

The report, which noted earlier U.N. development efforts in Somalia fell short of their goals, was criticised by some relief officials as being too hasty and overly ambitious.

But U.N. officials say the country's enormous needs must be met without delay. "We could go on forever, but donors are anxious to know what we want," said Pat Banks, a U.N. coordinator who drafted the report. "There's a lot more that needs to be done. These are only projects we can begin immediately."

U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi said he expected some changes in the proposal.

"Some projects may be found impractical," he said. "Let's hope they can do half of what they say. It's the first time

I've seen a document as ambitious as that," said an official of a private relief organisation who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Clan fighting in Somalia followed the ouster of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991. Last December, the U.S.-led forces of Operation Restore Hope halted clan fighting in southern Somalia and escorted relief shipments to famine-devastated areas.

The draft report says the success of the 1993 programme "will be largely dependent on three major factors: Security, the Somalis themselves and the response of the international community."

U.S.-led forces numbering about 33,000 personnel, including some 17,000 from the United States, are ensuring security in Somalia. A U.N.-led force of about 20,000 to 25,000 troops, with about 5,000 Americans, is to assume responsibility under a mandate the U.N. Security Council is to consider this week.

Coalition forces Sunday blew up one of the largest stockpiles of arms gathered during various weapons sweeps. In three separate blasts they destroyed more than 20,000 mortar shells, said U.S. military spokesman Colonel Fred Peck.

Israel gets new chief rabbis after scandalous mudslinging campaign

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel got new chief rabbis Sunday after an election campaign dubbed the dirtiest in Israeli history, with accusations of womanising, bribery and electronic snooping.

A 150-member conclave of religious and lay leaders met and elected Yisrael Lau and Eliahu Bakshi Doron as chief rabbis of the European-descended Ashkenazi and Middle East-descended Sephardi communities of Israel.

They succeeded rabbis Avraham Shapira and Mordechai Eliash, whose 10-year terms expire next month, and they face a huge task in rescuing the tarnished stature of their office.

Polish-born Lau, who spent his boyhood in Buchenwald concentration camp, suffered worst during the campaign when Talila Sten, a Tel Aviv astrologer, accused him of trying to seduce her.

The alleged misconduct occurred 20 years ago, when Lau was chief rabbi of the coastal city of Netanya.

Lau sued Sten for libel after her story appeared in the daily Hadashat newspaper Feb. 12, alongside a picture of her taking a lie detector test.

A sister paper, Ha'ir, quoted other women, unidentified, as accusing Lau of making advances

to them. Lau's 71 votes defeated two contenders, including Haifa Chief Rabbi Shalom Yashuv Cohen, whom Lau's supporters accused of planting listening devices in the Tel Aviv rabbinate.

Bakshi Doron, who defeated two contenders with 82 votes, was accused by rivals of paying bribes to assure his election as chief Haifa rabbi in the 1980s.

"Institutional religious life has taken a harsh blow. The institution of chief rabbinate, whose prestige is anyway in prolonged decline, needs a housecleaning," editorialised the daily Maariv.

"The spectacle we have witnessed in recent days is shameful," the chief rabbinate was created by Palestine's British rulers 70 years ago to represent the Jewish population in religious matters.

With the creation of the Israeli state, the rabbinate lost some of its powers, but continues to affect daily life through its control of Jewish marriage and kosher (dietary) laws.

The mudslinging stemmed partly from the openness of the latest election. The National Religious Party, which used to control the chief rabbinate, is out of government, and the election for

Lau, 56, is a scion of a centuries-old family of rabbis, and he is popular among secular Israelis, who often feel that the rabbinate imposes its rules on their lifestyle.

His book on modernism and Jewish ritual is widely read, and as chief rabbi of Tel Aviv, he often officiates at celebrity weddings.

Jerusalem-born Bakshi-Doron, 52, typifies the power of the ultra-religious Haredi community, and his growing willingness to overcome religious objections to Jewish statehood and become part of the Israeli establishment.

Bakshi-Doron's victory represents a further victory for his backers. Shas, the Haredi party in the governing coalition.

Both rabbis pledged in their victory speeches to try to bridge gaps between secular and religious Jews.

"We have to roll up our sleeves and make a big effort... to open our arms and hearts and absorb everyone, because there exists no Jew without a spark of faith in his heart," said Lau.

"We know our job today is to build brotherly love and bring the people close to the Torah, to love them and be loved, for the sake of God," Bakshi-Doron said.

UNRWA seeks urgent aid from Gulf

DUBAI (R) — A U.N. agency that helps more than 2.6 million Palestinian refugees has appealed for funds from oil-rich Gulf Arab states, warning it might have to cut down its services if urgent financial aid is not provided.

Uter Turkman, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) commissioner-general, said the agency was going through a severe financial crisis.

Mr. Turkman, quoted in the newspaper Emirates News Monday, said he was touring the Gulf in search of \$5 million for UNRWA. He has already visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar and is

due to go to Bahrain and Oman. "An extra sum of \$20 million is required in the current year and I hope that the Gulf states will provide at least \$5 million," he said while on a visit to Abu Dhabi.

"I hope the Gulf states will provide assistance commensurate with their abilities to enable the agency to continue its work."

UNRWA is financed by the U.N. but Gulf states have regularly contributed more than their normal share under U.N. rules.

The agency provides health, education and other aid to more than 2.6 million Palestinians displaced in the 1948 and 1967 Arab-

Israeli wars. It works in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and the occupied territories.

Mr. Turkman said limiting UNRWA's work could worsen the plight of Palestinians at a time of turmoil in the Israeli-occupied territories, high unemployment and frequent Israeli-imposed curfews on Palestinians.

"In such situations, when the refugees cannot even go out to buy food in the market, UNRWA comes to their assistance," he said.

The 350,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanese refugee camps are also almost entirely dependant on UNRWA, he said.

Israel delays expulsion of Messianic Jews

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has temporarily extended residency permits of three families from the United States and South Africa ordered out because they were Messianic Jews, officials said Monday.

The interior ministry agreed to a two-week extension at the request of three Israeli legislators who said they were trying to amend the law of entry, which would solve the problem for some Messianic Jews, a ministry statement said.

Earlier this month, the three families had been told to leave Israel by Sunday, Feb. 21, after the supreme court rejected their request to be given citizenship as Jews. The court ruled that they believed Jesus was the Messiah, they were no longer Jews but Christians.

According to Israel's "law of return," automatic citizenship is granted to all Jews on condition they are not members of another religion or a threat to public health.

Messianic Jews, some of whom are known as Jews for Jesus, number several hundred thousand worldwide. About 2,000 live in Israel, including some native Israelis. Despite their belief in Jesus as the Messiah, they consider themselves Jews and observe Jewish customs.

One of the American couples, Richard and Rickie Kenball, moved to Israel from Hope, Idaho, in 1980. The other American couple, Sidney Earl and Linda Speakman, moved to Israel in 1988 from Portland, Oregon. The South African couple,

Gary and Shirley Beresford, both were born in Johannesburg and immigrated from Zimbabwe in 1986. They have two grown sons who are not Messianic Jews and are citizens.

Benny Temkin of the left-wing Meretz Party said a proposed amendment to the "law of return" would grant permanent residency to anyone with a first-degree relative who was a citizen or had served in the army.

"It is certainly sad," Mr. Temkin told the Associated Press. "We are talking about three families. They love this country."

Mr. Temkin added that the Jewish state has long struggled with the definition of a Jew and an Israeli. He urged a humanitarian approach to dealing with the Messianic Jews.

Kuwait, Philippines agree on maids crisis

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and the Philippines have agreed on measures to curb abuse of Filipino maids by Kuwaiti employers, a Philippines diplomat said Monday.

Consul-General Wenceslao Quirolego said Kuwait had also pledged to help the repatriation to Manila of 300 Filipino domestic servants who have taken refuge at the Philippine embassy complaining of abuse by employers.

He told Reuters a "joint mechanism" to tackle servant abuse had been agreed by Philippines Labour Minister Nieves Confesor and Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad F. Al Sabah during a two-day visit by Ms. Confesor ending Sunday. Kuwait had undertaken to act on their side of the programme

within the next two weeks in an agreement reached amicably in which both sides had shown determination in tackling the issue, he added.

Hundreds of servants from the Philippines and the Indian sub-continent have complained in recent years of being beaten, raped or denied pay by Kuwaiti employers.

Kuwait officials say the reports of assaults are either fabricated or exaggerated by a minority of women who want to get out of contracts and go home. They say much of the blame lies with recruiting agencies.

Agents in Kuwait and Asia recruit the maids, usually by colour photographs or video tapes, many would be servants are university graduates. They sometimes hand over

their entire savings in fees to work in the emirate. Agents also receive fees from the Kuwaiti families who hire the maids.

Many of the 300 maids are stranded at the embassy because by law they need their employers' permission to leave the country. The employers, citing labour disputes with the maids, have not granted permission.

"Some of the allegations include maltreatment or physical and sexual abuse," said Mr. Quirolego.

The 300 are among about 9,000 Filipino domestic servants in Kuwait. Of the 35,000 Filipino workers in Kuwait, 11,000 lack work and residence papers, he said.

"We agreed to establish a joint mechanism," Mr. Quirolego said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Michael Vaillant
18:30 La Famille Ramdan
19:00 News in French
19:15 Kargo
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 The Driveway Dynasty
22:00 News in English
22:30 Big Man

PRAYER TIMES

04:50 Fajr
06:07 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19 Dhuhr
15:01 'Asr
17:51 Maghrib
18:49 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Association Tel. 637400.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Association Tel.

623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assuan International Church Tel. 622208.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624228.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.
Church of the Redeemer ... Tel. 638526.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3/15
Aqaba 6/22
Djeddah 2/17
Jordan Valley 7/21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammed Al Azach 752971
Dr. Abdel Wahab Madson 646070
Dr. Mohammad Khairi Labadie 638585
Dr. Zein Zaghloul 638591
Firas pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 783336
Al Azma pharmacy 637055
Nairooth pharmacy 623672
Al Saba pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simone pharmacy 627660
Nairooth pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 247632

JERUSALEM:
Dr. Walid Ibrahim 787111
Alqods pharmacy 787111
ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Abu Saad 989000
Khalaf pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 943402
Highway Police 896390
Traffic Police 630321
Public Security Department 625262
Hotel Complaints 636140
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 661271
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Haseena Medical Centre 813613/32
Khafid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mabes, J. Amman 661271/7
Palestine, Shunab 664171/4
Shunab Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mustashfi Hospital 667227/9
Rafiq Hospital 661271/7
Al-Ahli, Amman 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (02)52200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

02:30 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30 Dhaka (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Moscow, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:35 London (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
11:10 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
11:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:45 Rome (AZ)
17:45 Beirut (MSE)
23:59 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:25 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:50 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:50 London (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
12:50 Jeddah (RJ)
13:45 Damascus (RJ)
14:15 Larnaca (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)
17:45 Dubai (AZ)
21:00 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upstower price in Jds per kg
Apples 700/500
Bananas 600/600
Bananas (Makassar) 600/600
Beans 1200/900
Cabbage 100/500
Carrot 100/120
Cauliflower 200/150
Cucumbers (large) 200/150
Cucumbers (small) 400/300
Eggplant 300/200
Garlic 800/600
Grapefruit 400/300
Lemon 450/300
Marrow (large) 300/200
Marrow (small) 600/500
Mint 100/500
Onion (dry) 200/150
Onion (green) 250/180
Orange 400/300
Pepper (hot) 600/500
Pepper (sweet) 600/500
Potato 250/170
Tomato 160/90
Splach 140/90



His Majesty King Hussein with His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah and his fiancée Miss Rania Faisal Al Yassin at Sunday's engagement ceremony (Photo by Meldos)

Royal bride-to-be prepares for a new life

AMMAN (J.T.) — Miss Rania Faisal Al Yassin who was engaged to His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Sunday, was quoted as saying in an interview Monday that no date was set for the wedding but that the ceremony would not take place for several months.

Miss Yassin, a 22-year-old business administration graduate from the American University in Cairo, was also quoted as saying by Reuters that she had quit her job at a computer firm to prepare for her new life.

The Yassin family, originally

from Tulkarem in the Israeli occupied West Bank, were settled in Kuwait where Faisal Al Yassin, the bride-to-be's father worked as a doctor. But the family were forced to leave and come to Jordan in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of the emirate in August 1990.

King receives new envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Three Jordanian ambassadors were sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court Monday.

The ambassadors were Jordan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation Khalid Al Taher, Jordan's Ambassador to Chile Atef Halesa, and Jordan's Ambassador to Brazil Azmi Mirza.

The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Aziz Karaki, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid.

Also four new ambassadors to Jordan Monday presented their credentials to King Hussein.

The ambassadors were Norwegian Ambassador Per Thelin Haudegard, Austrian Ambassa-

Queen inaugurates new park

AMMAN (J.T.) — In continuous efforts to achieve a "greener Jordan," Her Majesty Queen Noor inaugurated the Wadi Al Seer Public Park Monday, planting olive trees on nine dunams of the park.

Situated on 31 dunams owned by the Municipality of Greater Amman, the park offers family-oriented facilities such as seating areas, paved platforms and outdoor games for children.

NMC receives music education materials as gift from U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison Monday delivered a package of music education materials, with an estimated value of \$30,000 as a gift to the National Music Conservatory (NMC) at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), to assist in the development of music education and appreciation among its young Jordanian students.

The package, entitled World of Music Series, and originally produced by the American publishing company, Silver Burdett & Ginn, consists of music text and resource books, teacher manuals, records and compact discs, video cassettes, charts and transparencies and a kit of percussion instruments. NMC sources said the package would be adapted to fit the educational needs of music students in Jordan and the Arab World.

The presentation ceremony was attended by NHF President

In'am Mufti, NMC and U.S. embassy officials, as well as Carol Scott Kassner of Seattle Pacific University who contributed to the music materials.

The Silver Burdett & Ginn World of Music Series, designed for basic school students, offers both organization and flexibility to meet the diverse needs of music educators and students. The presentation of this package underscores cultural cooperation between NMC and the U.S. Information Service (USIS) in Jordan. USIS has extended assistance to NMC in the forms of training, consultancies and scholarships.

Established in 1986 through the efforts of Her Majesty Queen Noor and funding from the Jordan Society in Washington, D.C., the NMC offers young Jordanians the opportunity to develop their musical talents through individual and group instruction on a wide range of musical instruments.

KLM to return to Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) is making a comeback to Amman in June, after an absence of two and a half years.

The announcement was made by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Ahmad Jweiber who said that the first KLM flight from Amsterdam will arrive in Amman on June 7, 1993.

KLM suspended its direct operations with Jordan in January 1991, immediately before the Gulf war.

In July 1991, KLM concluded an agreement with Cyprus Airways to make two weekly flights to Amman from Larnaca to transport KLM passengers to the Cyprus city where they can make connections aboard KLM flights to Amsterdam and other destinations.

According to a KLM source, Cyprus Airways will, under an agreement with KLM, increase its flights to three per week as of April, and in June a direct KLM flight will fly between Amsterdam and Amman and later continuing to Dubai.

The KLM source told the Jordan Times that under the new arrangement KLM can carry passengers from Amman to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and to Amsterdam on its way back.

With the return of KLM to Amman, the number of European airlines with direct flights to Jordan comes to seven.

Arabs should use foresight, realism in international arena — Abu Odeh

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "After 41 years as a political observer I have come up with one main conclusion about the Arab World — it continues to rationalise and think in terms of what is fair or judicially correct, instead of what is strategic and economically beneficial," Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh told a group of journalists and political analysts during a briefing on how he viewed the role of the U.N. in the post-cold war era.

Mr. Abu Odeh, who was King Hussein's political advisor and confidant since the early 1970s, urged that Jordanians and other Arabs use foresight and realism in their political dealings with the international community.

"When we are in the U.N., we have to look at global issues and remember that we are one of many parts in the world," he said addressing concerns about Jordan's role in particular.

The end of the cold war, said Mr. Abu Odeh, had changed the world "check" and balance system" to some degree. "The Third World had some advantages during the cold war; they could appeal to both sides for aid and help and have the benefit of accepting the 'higher bid'."

But with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the number of sides to appeal to had somehow been reduced to one bloc, "the North-Western" bloc, said the ambassador to the U.N.

Mr. Abu Odeh, to some extent, cynically remarked that it was the United States who now decided who was a major player in the international political scheme and who was not.

"Today Russia is a major player because the U.S. says it is — for no other reason," he told the audience which met with him at the University of Jordan, at a meeting organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies.

It was the G-7, the grouping of the world's seven most industrialised powerful countries, that was in the final analysis — "the decision maker" on world affairs, said Mr. Abu Odeh.

Russia does not belong to the G-7.

Countries belonging to the Group of Seven began using banners of human rights and democracy as qualifying measures of acceptance into the international "respectable arena" since the days of Jimmy Carter's presidency in the U.S.

But the banners are cynically applied, said Mr. Abu Odeh.

"I would compare the applica-

tion of the Western concept of human rights and democracy to the spreading of Western Christianity to the non-monolithic parts of Africa, South America and Asia in past centuries. The civilised West has come to spread goodness among the savages," said Mr. Abu Odeh mockingly.

Not opposed to the concepts of human rights and democracy, Mr. Abu Odeh said, "I am all for it — but there is a way to introduce these concepts and make them last instead of doing a superficial job."

By not providing the political and economic and educational basis for democracy and human rights to spread, many of those countries advocating such changes are just "unrealistic" in their demands.

But where democracy has worked, major economic and political changes have visibly altered the influence of some countries in the international arena. Germany and Japan, the losers of the second world war, are prime examples. Both are lobbying to become permanent members of the U.N. Security Council today.

At present, only the U.S., Russia, France, Britain and China belong to this exclusive club, which basically groups the main victors of World War II. The permanent members of the Security Council are the only U.N. members which have the right to veto any Security Council resolution; resolutions considered the most binding of all U.N. resolutions.

"But if Germany and Japan become members of the Security Council, and on account of their industrial and economic strength as well as their democratic and human rights track records, there will be a revolt in the U.N.," said Mr. Abu Odeh.

The southern countries or countries in the southern hemisphere, Mr. Abu Odeh pointed out, are "not represented at all the permanent council."

Each major continent would thus lobby for getting one seat on an expanded 10-seat member council.

In Asia the most likely candidate would be India, due in part to its large population, its industrial capabilities and its human rights record.

In Africa it would be a tie between Nigeria and Egypt, with Nigeria being the more likely candidate, because it is a black African nation and because of its relative economic wealth and large population.

In South America, "no-one considers anyone but Brazil simply because it is by far the largest

of all the South American countries," said Mr. Abu Odeh.

The Arab World in no way represents a united lobby or even a bloc of votes, said Mr. Abu Odeh, adding that only the countries of Eastern Europe were more factionalised than the Arab states in their interests and voting patterns.

"People in the Arab World frequently refer to the 'Arab vote' the 'Arab position' and other 'Arab politics' without facing the fact that Arab politics are the most factionalised and un-united anywhere," said Mr. Abu Odeh. "Blaming the others, the U.N., the U.S., the Europeans or Israel is completely 'off mark'," he added.

"The Arabs are the only ones to blame for this sad state of affairs."

The Arab states could have a strong and influential bloc in the U.N. system, said Ambassador Abu Odeh, but only if they coordinated, and individual states made a point of having a so-called "Arab policy."

There are five basic ways to enter the "international arena" at the U.N., Mr. Abu Odeh pointed out. Large financial donations to the U.N.; a strong military machine; being at the head of a bloc of states; being a major industrial nation; or being involved in the peacekeeping activities.

"Obviously Jordan has only one route to take and that is getting involved in the peacekeeping missions," Jordan is currently involved in peacekeeping missions in Croatia, Cambodia, Angola, Somalia and Macedonia.

This allows Jordan to be actively involved in international politics and gives it a small, but present voice in some decision making matters.

"At the U.N., Jordan has put itself on the map by participating in the U.N. peacekeeping forces," Mr. Abu Odeh said.

The Arab countries as a whole, however, must play a more united and cohesive role at the U.N., said Mr. Abu Odeh.

"Every group or bloc is carving out a role for itself, and that role will continue for several decades to come; if the Arab World does it not get into the act, it will be left out in the cold in its entirety."

The weakness of the Arab countries was primarily exposed during the Iraqi crisis in 1990 and 1991.

"The division created in the Arab World at that time can still be felt to this day," said Mr. Abu Odeh.

"On the issue of sanctions against Iraq, the inability of Arab

states to exert any form of pressure is ever present," he added.

"There are many in the Arab World who don't realise that the Western policy towards the Gulf is one primarily interested in keeping oil cheap and accessible," he told the audience.

"If one power, be it Iraq or Iran controls a majority of the oil, then it will still be accessible, but it may no longer be cheap, and this is what the Western industrial powers want to prevent," he added.

Any improvement of relations between the current Iraqi government and the U.S. government, said Mr. Abu Odeh, may not come for some time.

"The trend does not appear towards a lifting of the sanctions as they stand," said Mr. Abu Odeh when asked about the probability of economic sanctions on Iraq being lifted in the coming months.

The U.S. and the U.N. will try to impose U.N. resolutions 706 and 712, which stipulate that Iraq may sell oil in the amount of \$1.6 billion, of which one-third will be available to Iraq to buy food and medicines. The other two-thirds will go towards U.N. expenses and reparations costs.

Mr. Abu Odeh said he believed that the U.N. would allow for some "ready made" imports of clothing, furniture and other items. "But the West will not allow for the import to Iraq of cloth, wood or any other raw material," Mr. Abu Odeh said. The logic behind such a move would appear to be that there should be no increase in employment in Iraq as a result of the import of raw material.

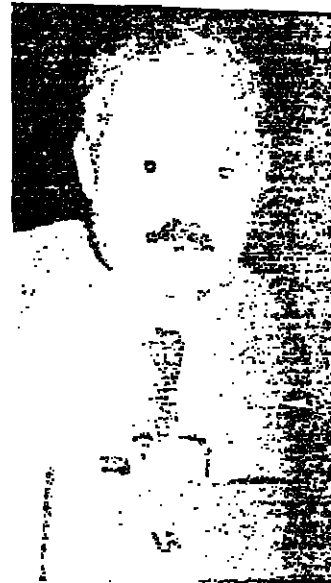
"The level of popular discontent should not be alleviated in the opinion of the West," said Jordan's U.N. ambassador cynically.

The nuclear capabilities that Iran has or could acquire, said Mr. Abu Odeh, would be among the primary reasons why the West may make some sort of diplomatic overture towards Iraq.

"The Arab World should not be too confident that its oil has much bargaining power; they should not think that the West will turn around and make friends with Iraq for the oil alone — it will do so for other strategic interests," he said.

The Arab countries have over-estimated their bargaining power, he said, and had thus made the same mistakes over and over again.

"As far as the Arab World and Israel are concerned, for example, we have made the same mistakes again and again. Our every move was predictable from



Adnan Abu Odeh

the outset," Mr. Abu Odeh said of the 45-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Not once did we use the element of surprise or forethought in our actions — it maybe time to change that," he added.

The Lebanon made an unexpected move which took Israel by surprise, (that of refusing to accept the 410 Palestinians expelled by Israel to southern Lebanon). Not only was the move politically correct in my opinion but it was also a move with foresight," he said commencing the Lebanese leadership.

He said that if he were to direct Palestinian politics, he would accept the gradual return of the expellees which is offered by the government of Yitzhak Rabin.

"If they accept this solution now, all of the expellees will be back in the occupied territories by the fall — if the Palestinians continue to refuse, all of them will still be in no-man's land in the fall."

The Arab parties to the peace process, said Mr. Abu Odeh, had no choice but to participate in the peace process.

"There will be peace between Israel and some of us, and the rest of us will be left out, and we are better off within the boundaries of the game than outside these boundaries," said Mr. Abu Odeh alluding to Syria's willingness to make peace with the Israelis.

Jordan had not said whether it will attend the next round of bilateral talks when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was here three days ago.

"We did not say yes and we did not say no," said Mr. Abu Odeh. "We left our options open — we have learned to do that."

Khleifat announces scholarship winners

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Awad Khleifat Monday held a press conference at his office and announced the names of students who won scholarships to Jordanian universities.

The 1,500 male and female students were selected to receive scholarships upon the recommendations of a special committee comprising representatives of various ministries and departments, Dr. Khleifat said.

He said fairness was observed in the selection process, adding that social status and academic achievement in the Tawjihi examination were taken into consideration.

The top-scoring ten males and ten

females of the Tawjihi examination for the scholastic year 1991-1992 were among the scholarship awardees in the scientific and literary stream, the minister said.

The ministry also granted scholarships to the top ten students in the industrial, commercial and nursing streams, the top ten students in the industrial, commercial and nursing streams and top five in the agricultural stream, and five students of hotel management.

Dr. Khleifat said that Jordanian universities together assigned 225 seats for students from other Arab and Islamic countries as scholarships from the ministry on reciprocal basis with the recipient's country.



One of Jordan's solar power experimental stations (file photo)

JEA pursues various methods to generate more electric power

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) plans to rely more heavily on the use of natural gas from the Al Rishheh district near the Iraqi border to generate electric power, according to JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah.

Mr. Arafah said that after August a third gas-driven turbine, capable of producing 30 megawatts, will become operational. Before the end of the year, he added, gas turbines will generate nearly 16 per cent of the country's total power needs at a savings of up to JD 11.5 million that would otherwise have been spent on oil to generate electricity.

When gas was first discovered at Al Rishheh in 1987, two turbines were installed at the site to generate power that now reaches many areas, Mr. Arafah said.

At present, gas turbines produce up to 11.3 per cent of the country's power needs, but JEA plans to gradually increase this production according to set plans, the director said.

In 1994, JEA expects to install a 30 megawatt gas turbine in Irbid to boost power production from the vast gas reserves in Jordan, Mr. Arafah said.

He added that by the end of 1994, electric power will have reached all the rural and badia regions.

Mr. Arafah said that in 1993, 200 villages will be supplied with power at a cost of JD 11.5 million; in 1994, 206 villages will be electrified at a cost of JD 8 million.

Total power generation last year stood at 4,422,000 megawatt hours, Mr. Arafah said, adding that this production is on the increase as the population and people's needs continue to grow.

He said that in 1992, electric power was supplied to 567,000 subscribers, registering an increase of 4.6 per cent over 1991.

Director Arafah explained that one of the major projects underway is the thermal power generator in Aqaba, which is being implemented in two stages. Mr. Arafah said the plant is expected to become operational by 1996 at a cost of \$270 million.

Implying that the JEA may raise charges on power consumption, Mr. Arafah said recent years witnessed continual increases in the cost of materials, spare parts and cables, as well as operational costs.

JEA sustained huge losses over the years, and by the end of 1992 they amounted to JD 49 million because of rising prices, Director Arafah explained.

The government currently subsidises electric power generation in Jordan by to five fils per

kilowatt hour: a formula should be found to reduce JEA losses, Mr. Arafah added.

Referring to non-traditional methods of producing electricity, Mr. Arafah said JEA was planning on utilising sun and wind power.

He said that in 1990, a consortium of firms from Germany, Switzerland Spain and the U.S. conducted studies and submitted proposals for solar-produced power at the rate of 30 megawatts. Several such experimental stations have been set up, noted Mr. Arafah.

By the end of 1993, a comprehensive study of the results of these experiments will be conducted to determine whether solar-generated power is feasible, he said.

Mr. Arafah said parallel experiments are underway to produce electricity from wind power. The JEA installed an experimental wind power station to produce 320 megawatts in Al Ibrahimieh district of Irbid; the station has been operational for the past four years, he added.

JEA and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will install another wind power experimental station that will be financed by the German government, Director Arafah said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jomel, Helen Kmal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Mohammad Fakher at Baladna Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Mohammad Fathi and Jaber Mejlal at Alia Art Gallery.

LECTURE

Lecture on intermarriages by Dr. Josi Salem-Pickartz at the Ghoethe Institute — 10 a.m.

Victim of First Circle attack describes two assailants; says one surveyed shop earlier

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police forces carried out their biggest ever manhunt operation Sunday evening and Monday morning, in the First Circle area of Amman looking for two suspects who attacked a shopowner in Jabal Amman, lightly wounding him.

Police sources said the assault on the shopowner, identified by his initials as M.M.M., in the First Circle area, was carried out by two persons. One was described as old and tall, and the other was said to be short.

The injured shopowner told police investigators that a man came into the shop and asked for canned meat; the shopowner gave the can to him without turning his back.

Next, the man asked the shopowner for tissues, which were

seemingly in a faraway place from where they were standing.

As the shopowner went to get the tissues, the suspect pushed him into an inside room in the supermarket.

The shopowner said he resisted the assailant and managed to throw him to the ground, when an accomplice, who was obviously watching the area, rushed into the store, and stabbed the shopowner in the neck with a knife.

The two-men then fled the scene.

An eyewitness to the assault called the police who began the search operation; but no suspects were captured.

The shopowner told police investigators after being discharged from hospital Sunday that one of the assailants called at the shop the previous day asking about the prices of several commodities.

Bulgaria to encourage more trade with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister Valentine Karbachev Monday said his government will create the proper mechanisms to ensure further trade between Bulgaria and Jordan.

Bulgaria will encourage trade investments, provide the Jordanian private sector with Bulgaria's trade regulations and make special arrangements regarding labour, Mr. Karbachev said at a meeting with Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan.

Jordan will participate in an industrial fair in Sofia in May providing Jordanian and Bulgarian firms the chance to conclude more business together and offering Bulgaria an opportunity to further examine Jordanian industrial products, the Bulgarian official said.

He added that through these arrangements it is hoped the current trade balance between the two countries will be adjusted. Mr. Abu Hassan said Bulgaria

purchased JD 24,000 worth of Jordanian products in 1991 and JD1.7 million in 1992, but Bulgaria's exports to Jordan rose from JD11.3 million in 1989 to JD16.5 million in 1992.

He said when the two countries signed an economic and technological agreement in 1977, they stressed the promoting of trade exchange; but trading in subsequent years failed to live up to expectations. Bulgaria and Jordan have the potential to increase their trade exchanges as Jordan is now producing high quality products that are competitive with similar items in the world market, Mr. Abu Hassan maintained.

He proposed that the two countries provide their respective private sectors with the opportunity to work out a formula for increasing trade.

Mr. Karbachev and an accompanying delegation also visited the Amman Chamber of Commerce where they were received by Chamber President Haidar Issa Murad and several members of the board of directors.

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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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Charity begins at home

THE HOLY month of Ramadan offers yet another annual opportunity to observe the spiritual demands of the occasion. There is obviously more to Ramadan than refraining from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset. The deep religious values that are so clearly associated with this abstinence require each and every truly devout individual to reach out and reflect on the most effective and efficient way to help the poor and needy amongst us.

If so happens that due to economic problems that have faced the Kingdom, there are so many people who are poverty stricken. The deepening economic woes of many Jordanians have naturally driven some into despair and even crime. What is worse is the end result of this economic depression which culminated in dividing citizens into privileged and underprivileged classes. The political and social ramifications of the widening gap between the haves and the have-nots in our society are abundant and clear to whoever seeks to be aware.

There is a body of jurisprudence in Islam that calls for real social security according to which the basic needs of the society will have to be met. That could mean heavier taxation on the rich in order to guarantee minimum income to the majority of the people. It also means generating more employment opportunities by initiating industries that are employment intensive even if that entails higher production costs. The International Labour Office (ILO) had counselled developing countries as far back as the mid-seventies to think more in terms of creating business opportunities geared to satisfy the basic needs of their own respective societies than to enhance their export markets. The price of neglecting such an early message may have saved production costs for states which did not heed it, but their course caused them tremendous social and political upheavals that in the end outweighed the economic costs.

Theologians remind us that among the inner meanings of fasting in Ramadan is to remind observing Muslims about the hunger and deprivation of the less fortunate. If Jordanians can just look around for the widening pockets of deprivation in their own backyards, they would have fulfilled one of the basic religious values of Ramadan. Instead of turning daytime into nighttime and vice versa by reversing the order and timing of eating and sleeping, it would be infinitely better to try and be more faithful to the real religious and spiritual values of the holy occasion.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WASHINGTON'S COMMITMENT to be a full partner in the Middle East peace process, as conveyed to the Arab leaders by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, is a very important development, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. But, said the paper, the Arabs still want to find out whether the U.S. administration intends to tamper with resolutions 242 and 338, on which the current peace process hinges, like it did with Resolution 799. It is reasonable to ask the U.S. secretary to give Washington's explicit stand vis-a-vis the two resolutions in the light of Washington's recent attitude towards Resolution 799 which has not been implemented, said the paper. The Arabs want Mr. Christopher to give them assurances that resolutions 242 and 338 will be implemented in full on the basis of exchanging land for peace, now that he has heard the Arab leaders' views and learnt that the Arab Nation is oriented towards a genuine and lasting peace, the paper demanded. It said that to play the role of full partner, the U.S. should declare openly its total commitment to dealing with the Middle East issue fairly and justly and to avoid any attempt to reach a compromise solution at the expense of the Arab rights and interests. The paper said the Arabs are totally committed to reach peace and Mr. Christopher has learnt this view in his talks in Cairo, Amman and Damascus; the Arabs, said the paper, are now expecting a commitment from Washington to adopt a single criteria on and not a double standard policy in tackling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the view of Sawt Al Shaab daily, Mr. Christopher has already succeeded in fragmenting and diluting U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 which calls for the repatriation of Palestinians expelled to southern Lebanon. The paper said now that the Arab countries involved in the peace negotiations have accepted the idea of resuming the talks with Israel before any settlement to the expellees' problem has been reached, the Arab countries' stand has weakened. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has warned more than once against any separate deals which Israel could reach any Arab country under pressure from the United States but, regrettably, one can say only that Mr. Christopher has now succeeded in fragmenting and dividing the Arab stand to reach that point. Jordan has repeatedly stressed that the expellees' issue was standing in the way of peace and the resumption of the peace process, and everyone was in agreement that the U.S.-Israeli compromise solution offered to the Arabs over 799 constituted a circumvention of that resolution, the paper noted.

The View from Fourth Circle

From distortion to dignity — the quest for Arab identity

By Rami G. Khouri

I would like to respond to the thoughtful letter to the editor of Mr. Ayman Yasin two weeks ago, asking for clarification about my use of the phrase "the natural Arab/Islamic identity" in a previous column. I believe the quest for our natural national identity is today the most important and most widespread challenge being faced by the Arab people. More than any other single factor — more than oil, foreign armies or our own fears — the affirmation of our national identity will determine the long-term future of this region.

Our Arab/Islamic identity is not a unique or fixed concept that we can study and retrieve; it is, like all identities, a dynamic and fluid concept, changing with the times and adapting to the particularities of each generation. In our case, however, we can draw on an extraordinary long history of human civilisation from which we should be able to identify certain principles and concepts that pertained during our many moments of historical vitality and rational nationhood, and our several moments of world-renowned productivity, ingenuity, and even some glory. The reason I say we are searching for our authentic, natural identity is that we are in the midst of a period of intense national confusion and distortion. The political and national configuration that we have experienced since the post-1920, post-colonial era is both unnatural and unstable, if measured against the dominant principles that have defined our region and our culture for the last several thousand years.

The modern Arab states of our era are some of the most artificial, militaristic, turbulent, violent, dependent, indebted and demographically and economically distorted entities to see the light of day in this ancient land since the days of the crusader kingdoms, and of the Roman federated mini-kingdoms before them. Most of them have been and continue to be characterised by a deadly concentration of financial and military power in the hands of small numbers of people who comprise ruling elites — almost always self-imposed elites who were neither chosen by their people nor are accountable to them.

This century's Arab order of over 20 independent Arab states was not chosen by the Arab people themselves, and for the most part it has not satisfied their political rights, human needs or national aspirations. Our modern development reflects political configurations and socio-economic trends that are grossly in contradiction with the prevalent patterns of our vast and rich history — patterns that naturally defined our political structures and social/national identity.

Specifically, the dominant trends in the past, especially in our glory days, have almost always included the following: a loose and

distinct role for the central government of the highest political authority, with little or no interference in people's daily lives; fiscal responsibility which, with few exceptions, saw the people of the region consume only what they produced, without falling into severe debt; local responsibility for routine daily matters such as education, health, employment, and security; religious and cultural pluralism, largely free of fanaticism and extremism; justice, tolerance, and equity based on community-level interpretation of Islamic doctrine; free movement of people, resources, ideas, and cultural impulses across the entire Middle East, unhindered by artificial political barriers and bureaucratic obstacles; political identity defined broadly (Arabs, Muslims, subjects of the Umayyad, Fatimid, or Ottoman empires), rather than narrowly (Lebanese, Tunisians, Jordanians, or Palestinians); a largely rural population that provided the life-sustaining agricultural base for the few city dwellers; and general self-sufficiency in food and other basic needs, combined with an active regional trading system.

Most of these concepts characterised our societies during the last several millennia, especially since the start of the Islamic era. But most of them no longer pertain in most communities in the Middle East today and, therefore, most people are actively engaged in one of several activities: Islamic politics that challenge the ruling orders of our many Arab states, an enthusiastic desire to emigrate at any cost, a frantic scramble to secure a sufficient income at any political or moral cost, or, for those who have enjoyed wielding power in recent decades, a brisk dash to accumulate large amounts of money and to hold on to that power under the guise of new orders and new political structures.

We endure a very difficult situation in the Arab World today, with mass discomfort at the individual, family and community level. The natural or traditional Arab/Islamic identity of our region has been shattered, or badly disfigured, by our modern legacy of materialism, consumerism, urbanism, debt, dependence, centralised autocracy, exaggerated militarism, and other factors. Some of these problems are due to foreign colonial domination and Zionist penetration, while others are purely our own responsibility, reflecting our own lassitude, incompetence, greed, fear, patriarchy and violence.

In response to this grim reality, the people of the Arab World are looking for something better, for something that provides them with dignity instead of distortion and distress. They seek a more authentic and comfortable national configuration that makes greater sense to their social instincts and predominantly Islamic religious sentiments, and that provides some chance of

viability and survival on the basis of the existing regional resource base. This search for a new Arab/Islamic/Semite/Middle Eastern political identity and national configuration has been going on since the turn of the century, when the Ottoman-era patterns of life and rule were brought to an end by World War I.

Islam and Arabism have been the two most powerful political expressions of this quest for identity during the last seven decades; colonialism, Zionism, fragmentation, militarism, and home-grown Arab autocracy have been its main deterrents and constraints. Now, as some Arab people start to develop more pluralistic and democratic systems, and some Arab people start to enjoy the opportunity to express their political desires and sentiments in freedom for the first time in many, many centuries, the natural political identity of this region will slowly assert itself.

We cannot predict what it will be, but we can be sure that it will reflect social attributes and cultural patterns that are indigenous to our societies. For example, our identity will be based more on collective (tribal) principles of security than on individualism. We will have more intra-regional contacts and sentiments than we have had in recent decades, and these will be based on the vitality of indigenous factors such as Arabism, Islam, and the pressing need for resource integration.

Our political structures will also be based on a new synthesis that brings together the most fundamental indigenous Arab/ Islamic social concepts (justice and equity, collective security, tribalism, patriarchy, ethnic and religious pluralism, and shura, or consultation) with some relevant western and international political concepts (human rights legislation, due process of law, an independent judiciary, direct elections for popular representation through parliament, formal separation of power among government branches, and accountability of public officials through a formal parliamentary process).

In general, we will have to reduce or reverse some of the devastating trends that have ravaged our region, our economies, our social structures and our collective identity since the 1920s; we will have to reach deep into our heritage for a new political and national identity that corresponds more closely to our authentic needs, wishes, and attributes. In the modern era, the average Arab person has not had the opportunity to express his or her wishes, needs or identity. Now, a new opportunity to do so may be emerging, and in time it will lead to the affirmation of our natural Arab/Islamic identity.

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Christopher's visit could show direction of peace talks

The following article is reprinted from the Feb. 20, 1993 issue of the Economist.

In the week's sweep through the Middle East, which started in Cairo on Feb. 18, and ends in Israel, Warren Christopher is to see whether the Arab-Israeli peace talks can be restarted. America's secretary of state will find Arab government falling over themselves to oblige. They may suspect the pro-Israeli sympathies of the new Clinton administration, dislike the American-Israeli horse-trading over the Palestinians deported from Israel, and bemoan the United Nations' response. But all want to start on the right foot with Bill Clinton.

For the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories, things are not so simple. This week the PLO reiterated that, regardless of what the Arab governments do, the Palestinian delegation will stay away from the negotiating table until Israel complies with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which demands the immediate return of all the recent deportees. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, is standing firm on the deal made with the Americans:

100 deportees to return at once, and the other 300 before the end of the year. He is dismissive of the fact that the Palestinians have turned this down; his attention is now fixed on the possibility of a deal with Syria.

When he deported the Islamist Palestinians in December, all of them political rather than military figures and including 30 top-ranking leaders of Hamas and ten from the smaller Islamic Jihad. Mr. Rabin claimed that this might help the PLO in the peace process. On the contrary: the expulsions not only checked the peace talks but also the feud between Hamas and Fateh (the driving force of the PLO), as Fateh was forced to the defence of its Islamic brethren. Yet, only a month before the deportations, Yasser Arafat was publicly likening Hamas to the Ikhwan movement in South Africa.

Ever since the launch of the peace process in Madrid in October 1991, Hamas has led a coalition of ten groups (most of them nationalist rather than Islamic) in outright opposition to the negotiations. That Hamas has soared in popularity to become the second force, after Fateh, in the occupied territories derives from many Palestinians' belief that the

peace talks are going nowhere. The PLO-led delegation, they feel, has been engaged in negotiations for an autonomy that would offer the Palestinians little more than the right to collect their own rubbish.

The enthusiasm at the time of Madrid was real. Palestinians deeply want peace and a semblance of normality. But there is a line beneath which they feel a settlement is not worth having. Had Mr. Rabin translated into deeds the encouraging words he uttered when he first took office, support for Hamas on the Palestinian street would have declined, at least to its pre-Madrid level (when Hamas was estimated to have a following of around 30-40 per cent in the Gaza Strip and 20-25 per cent in the West Bank).

Gaza, poor, devout and with a largely refugee population, has proved an ideal breeding-ground for religious fervour. Hamas evolved from the Muslim Brotherhood, which flourished in the 1970s, creating a wide welfare network. It was encouraged by Israel as an unreluctant counter to the PLO. Its stated aim was to return society to the true path of Islam, from which it had been deflected by the secularism of the

nationalist movement; only when this goal had been achieved would conditions be ripe for a jihad to restore Palestine to a wider Islamic state.

The Islamic Jihad, which broke away in the early 1980s, reversed these priorities. But it was only with the onset of the intifada in December 1987 that the Brotherhood created Hamas, which means "zeal" and is also an acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, to take part in the struggle. No love is lost between Islamic Jihad, referred to as "the Shiite faction" because of its Iranian connection, and Hamas, scorned for its "pragmatism".

Hamas has formulated its own political agenda, albeit of an exceedingly ambiguous nature. On the one hand, it has declared its opposition to a two-state solution, the recognition of Israel and the peace process. On the other, it wants to be an active player in the political game challenging the PLO's exclusive representation of the Palestinian people by seeking to enter the PLO's over-arching body, the Palestine National Council, with a demand for 40 per cent of the seats. Although Hamas would not negotiate with Israel, its leaders have hinted that

it would tacitly accept an imposed settlement as a short-term measure. Presumably Hamas is attempting to square its principles with its wish not to be left out in the cold — if peace were unexpectedly to break out.

Hamas gets a lot of money from Islamic donors around the world, some of it circulated through America and Britain, and much of it originating in the Gulf. Hamas's caution during the Gulf war ensured that, unlike the PLO's money, its cash kept coming. But now that Hamas has moved into a more militant period, Iran has been added to the list of donor countries and there are reports of Iranian-run military training camps. The Israeli government also claims that the military attacks carried out by Hamas squads are organised by a command structure operating from America, with connections to Britain. In late January the Israelis arrested two American Palestinians charged with distributing hundreds of thousands of dollars in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to finance military operations.

The supposed involvement of people in America and Britain is pretty hazy. A senior Hamas man, Musa Abu Marzuq,

is known to divide his time between Damascus and Arlington, Virginia. Israel has a clear interest in playing up the military threat from Hamas to justify its action against the Islamists. In fact, Hamas is still a relative beginner in the military arena. Organised attacks are a new development. The greater threat is in acts of random violence against Israeli civilians carried out by individuals emboldened by notions of jihad. In addition, there is Hamas's self-appointed role as the guardian of private morality and the scourge of collaboration. In this capacity the movement bears a major responsibility for the inter-Palestinian killings over the five years of the intifada, estimated at over 500.

After the expulsions, the PLO opened talks with Hamas in Tunis and Khartoum. It may hope to tempt a temporarily weakened Hamas into the Palestine National Council with a smaller representation than it currently demands. This would be a considerable relief for the PLO, which is squeezed between the determination of the Arab states to carry on with the peace process and the reluctance of many Palestinians in the territories to see it resume a seat at the conference table.

Clinton lives up to expectations: Little action on foreign policy

By Nick Ludington
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton is living up to predictions he would tend to the ailing American economy and flawed social programmes ahead of foreign affairs.

In his inauguration speech he said: "While America rebuilds at home, we will not shrink from the challenges, nor fail to seize the opportunities, of this new world."

But he has certainly sidestepped challenges, following an at-best cautious policy which Washington Post columnist Stephen Rosenfeld called "selective engagement."

When the top foreign policy

advisers met in early February at the White House to determine U.S. policy on former Yugoslavia, Mr. Clinton did not attend.

He has delegated responsibility to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and Defense Secretary Les Aspin. He is reportedly kept informed daily and has the final say but does not take part in the policy formulation. Mr. Clinton has yet to chair a National Security Council meeting.

In the first month of his presidency, Mr. Clinton had few foreign visitors.

Israeli foreign ministers almost always see the president, but Mr. Clinton was too busy with preparations for unveiling his economic

plan to see Shimon Peres last week.

He has met only with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada, America's closest friend and neighbour, and President Turgut Ozal of Turkey, another close ally, who stretched out a private trip until Mr. Clinton could see him. Mr. Clinton also had an informal meeting with Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel of a key European ally, Germany.

The president has rolled back on activist campaign promises, saving his political ammunition for the domestic economy plan.

He promised to ease entry procedures for Haitian refugees. Instead, he threw a ring of U.S. ships around Haiti to keep refugees from coming to the United

States. In the campaign, Mr. Clinton called for tougher action on Bosnia. But his plan when announced by Mr. Christopher was tame, specifically ruling out air strikes or lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims and promising no settlement would be imposed by force.

Essentially, Mr. Clinton played for time, naming veteran diplomat Reginald Bartholomew as a special envoy to "build on" a stalled plan to partition Bosnia proposed by U.N. and European negotiators.

Mr. Clinton sidestepped the dilemma he framed himself: on moral grounds, the Bosnian Muslims should be helped to get back

lands seized by the Serbs in their ethnic cleansing campaign. But realistically, without large-scale military action meaning U.S. action — the tough, well-armed Serbs are unlikely to give up their gains.

The Middle East peace talks are stalled, Mr. Clinton sent Mr. Christopher to make a round of visits in the region.

But Mr. Clinton is not putting his prestige on the line to force skirmishing Arab and Israeli forces back to the table.

On the plane on his way to the region, Mr. Christopher said if the two sides show no willingness to make concessions and revive the talks, the United States could

walk away. "It's a big world with lots of things to do," he said.

On the U.S. intervention in Somalia, Mr. Clinton told U.S. governors on Feb. 1: "We're...debating how we can keep peace in Somalia when the mortality rate is greater in some neighbourhoods in the United States of America."

He is expected to bring back as many troops as possible as soon as possible. Another 1,000 are coming home this week.

Iraq has remained largely out of the foreground as Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, apparently sensing the change from a frustrated, belligerent Bush, is lying low.



LETTERS

All for my country

To the Editor:

I AM a 10-year-old girl in my 4th elementary grade. I am writing concerning Ms. Natasha Bukhari's letter "The feminine mystique" (Jordan Times, Feb. 16, 1993). I am proud to be Miss Bukhari's student. I absolutely agree with the contents of the letter; I would only like to say the following: When I grow up I am planning to do everything in my power to be a useful person, worthy of serving my country.

I definitely will not allow my being a girl, in the future, to prevent me from learning, working and contributing to my country's progress. The money and effort my father invested in my learning must bring a return to my beloved Jordan.

Hania Tayseer Dawood,
New English School,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld after request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Christopher voices hopes for talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Christopher added, "Palestinian negotiators will meet occupied Jerusalem say they will return to the talks until all the issues are resolved."

Mr. Christopher registered support for Lebanon's independence and said the United States desires the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese troops.

This would presumably include the 10,000 Syrian troops, plus 1,000 Israeli soldiers in the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone" in the south.

Grey and red dust shrouded the three US Black Hawk choppers as they landed down at the sprawling compound at 5:45 p.m. (19:05 GMT) after a 40-minute flight over the East Mediterranean.

U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker's machine-gun equipped, bullet-proof Chevrolet limo whisked Mr. Christopher and Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Edward Djerejian across the 700-metre distance to the conference hall.

Mr. Bush greeted Mr. Christopher at the door and escorted him to meet President Hrawi and Prime Minister Hariri.

Mr. Hariri called the visit "testimony to Lebanon's stability and its recovery from the civil war as a testament to the region."

The three Lebanese leaders had been in separate, heavily guarded motorcades behind waiting sirens to Yarmouk before Mr. Christopher's arrival.

Military police said all cars parked inside and within a five-kilometre radius around the walled hilltop military were removed before Mr. Christopher's arrival. They said the move was a precaution against a bomb attack.

Army intelligence officers and paramilitary units surrounded the helicopter. Hundreds of other soldiers were confined to offices or barracks within the compound.

The Lebanese refused to meet with Mr. Christopher except on their own soil, containing his presence would mean a recognition of Lebanon's recovery from the anarchy of post-war chaos, aircraft hijacking and suicide bombing that highlighted the civil war from 1975 to 1990.

They hoped to persuade Mr. Christopher to fill a travel ban on the United States imposed after the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner to Beirut. The hijackers shot and killed a U.S. navy diver and held the passenger hostage 17 days.

Mr. Christopher declined to promise the ban would be lifted, saying, "That's a question for the president."

In Amman, Mr. Christopher told Greek-Cypriot leaders he hoped for an early settlement to end the 18-year division of the island.

He held talks with outgoing President George Vassiliou and his successor Glafos Clerides at Larnaca airport during the brief stopover on his way to Israel from Lebanon.

Asked whether the Clinton administration would stand by its election

pledge to push for the withdrawal of Turkish troops occupying the northern third of Cyprus, Mr. Christopher said:

"We certainly hope for an early settlement of that long-standing controversy... I hope it is now time for a full settlement... with the leadership we have in this room."

Mr. Clerides will be sworn in on Sunday as the fourth elected president of Cyprus.

In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Christopher sought the kingdom's support to get the peace talks resumed and assured King Fahd of continued American backing, reports said.

"We want the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to help us ensure an early resumption of the negotiations and take further steps for a long peace," Mr. Christopher told reporters on arrival in Riyadh.

Mr. Christopher added that the United States appreciated the part already played by Saudi Arabia in the peace process.

He also said President Clinton was committed to the security of the Gulf and that the United States shared Saudi Arabia's determination to ensure that Iraq complied with all United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Christopher said the United States had "nothing against the Iraqi people" who were suffering as a result of the U.N. resolutions.

"But we cannot but see all the Security Council resolutions implemented," he said.

Mr. Christopher held talks with King Fahd Sunday evening.

He said his visit to Saudi Arabia was a confirmation of the close ties between Saudi Arabia and the United States and looked forward to the opportunity to strengthen them further.

In Kuwait, Mr. Christopher reiterated the tough time ahead for Iraq.

Mr. Christopher's two-hour visit to Kuwait intended to assure nervous U.S. allies in the Gulf of Mr. Clinton's commitment to the region.

In return, he was interested in obtaining their support to renew the Arab-Israeli peace talks as soon as possible, U.S. officials said.

Our friends can rest assured that the United States will be with them in the future as in the past," Mr. Christopher said on arrival in Kuwait.

He was met by Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah. Later he held a meeting with the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

As long as the people of this region are subject to aggression, our friends can rely on the steadfast vigilance of the United States," Mr. Christopher said.

In his arrival statement, Mr. Christopher noted that almost exactly two years ago to the day, U.S. troops stormed into Kuwait City at the climax of the Gulf war, ending a six-month Iraqi occupation of the emirate.

Khomeini's legacy pits cynical rich against embittered poor

By Christopher Walker

TEHRAN — Many of the Iranians who mark the anniversary of the proclamation of the Islamic republic are aware that its viability is now more in question than at any time since Ayatollah Khomeini returned from exile in 1979.

Fourteen years after the Islamic revolution, Tehran remains a tale of two cities: its northern half housing the rich and often cynical, who fight a rear-guard action to keep old values alive, while the overcrowded south is a sprawling slum dominated by the "dispossessed" in whose name the Shah was toppled.

Newcomers to the city, which has seen its population more than double since the 1986 census put it at six million, are invariably astonished to find the attractive, walled streets in the north packed with boutiques displaying risqué Parisian designs, showrooms for BMW cars and French bistros like Ghoo, where men and single women make assignments across tightly packed tables.

Behind the thick curtains of villas, some with swimming pools and others with peacocks strutting the lawns, contraband alco-

hol flows like water (Johnny Walker Black Label sells for the equivalent of £40), ladies outshine their western guests with plunging necklines, and illegal videos for unlawful video machines are hand-delivered in brown paper parcels.

Some of the affluent are mullahs, who have profited from requisitioned businesses once in private hands. Others are merchants thriving on fluctuating exchange rates that can make them 30 times wealthier on a single deal. There are also "Islamic capitalists" whose money is being made on the stock exchange, which is bullish once again.

The squads of Islamic vigilantes, back in force on the streets, have failed to curb the affluent lifestyle of the upper classes. The supposedly forbidden quiffs worn by young women are more outrageously permed than ever. Men and women hold hands despite the threat of a flogging.

There are many such examples of what the radicals refer to angrily as "bad hejrah", breaches of the dress code which are adhered to with uniformity in the south where the women all don black chadors, clasped to their necks with one hand for added modest-

ty, giving the impression that one is present at a permanent funeral.

With its open sewers, its hordes of beggars and cripples from the eight-year conflict with Iraq, the south of Tehran is still the powerhouse of the revolution, its unemployed young manning the vigilante forces which attempt to impose Islamic conformity on the north.

As in the former Soviet Union, it is the poor who are paying the biggest price for attempts to introduce a local form of perestroika known as baz-e-sazi. Costs of goods have soared beyond the reach of the estimated two million government employees who earn an average monthly wage of 270,000 rials (£125). A housing shortage has created vast armies of squatters whose clashes with the security forces often provide the catalyst for wider unrest.

Nothing symbolises the contrasting lifestyles more than the picturesque ski resorts of Shemshak and Dizin, two hours' drive to the north of the capital. The slopes, like the buses, are strictly segregated, but women often ski defiantly without wearing the veil, confident that the lower-class vigilantes, who make up the "disciplinary forces", lack the skills, often honed by annual

trips to the Swiss or French Alps, to apprehend them.

Most returning exiles have property in north Tehran, and some are horrified to find the Islamic authorities demanding compound interest (banned by Sharia, Islamic holy law) for "overseeing" it since the end of the monarchy. Residents of north Tehran speak of the south as though it was part of another planet, but are aware that without the support of its masses no attempt to overthrow the mullahs could ever hope to succeed.

The north is the home of most diplomats who are frequently harassed by the vigilantes from the south. One European ambassador and his wife recently heard a victim of the Islamic militia being shot outside their villa while others are tailed by cars containing Islamic vigilantes.

In the south, the fervour of Islamic fundamentalism and militancy has been worn down by the economic hardships of 14 years of revolution. But the spark has not yet died, as those who speak angrily of the day more than 30 years ago when the last Shah's father outlawed the Islamic veil are quick to remind the rare visitor from the West — The Times.

Call for holy war may widen Algerian struggle

By Elaine Ganley
The Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — The bustling, sun-drenched streets of Algiers camouflage a high stakes struggle played out almost daily in hit-and-run attacks by armed groups that vanish once the deed is done.

The battle between Muslim extremists and the military-backed government could swell into a broader uprising following the call for a holy war by one of Algeria's top fundamentalists.

It was the Islamic Salvation Front's (FIS) first official statement of support for the armed movements that have terrorised security forces for a year.

The banned fundamentalist Muslim movement predicts that Algeria's military-backed government will collapse in a year and give way to an Islamic state.

The government, battling to avoid such a fate, just renewed a year-long state of emergency declared in February 1992 and resumed an amnesty call for extremists who have not spilled blood.

Ali Belhadj, the FIS' No. 2 leader, issued the Jan. 12 call for a jihad, or holy war, in a letter sneaked from the Blida military prison, where he is serving a 12

year term.

The call to arms is an open secret in Algiers and Blida, the two major battlegrounds during the past year's violence.

"It's official now. The FIS wants violence," said a 33-year-old doctor leaving a mosque after weekly prayers in Blida, south of Algiers. "They're saying it in all the streets. There's no more room for discussion."

The tension is evident, with army barriers blocking the roads and masked police cruising the streets, assault rifles poking from their vans. Western attire predominates, replacing the beards and robes favoured by the now-banned fundamentalists.

Fundamentalists, on the brink of power barely a year ago, now meet covertly with reporters whether in Algeria or in European capitals where some have fled. Their official statements are banned, their leaders jailed. But the message gets through.

The fundamentalists were about to sweep parliamentary elections in January 1992 when the army stepped in, cancelling voting and banning the FIS.

In the year since the ruling High State Council was installed to thwart the fundamentalists, more than 600 people have been killed, nearly half of them police

and soldiers targeted by extremists, authorities say.

FIS spokesman Rabah Kebir said: "The only solution to get back what was taken from us is by force, the jihad. The Algerian people didn't wait for Ali Belhadj to write his letter. The jihad started long before that."

"In all certitude, armed action will spread with time," said Mr. Kebir, the senior FIS official not in prison. He fled Algeria in August and spoke in a secretly arranged meeting with a reporter in Europe.

Mr. Kebir said he expected to return home in a year, a "logical time," he said, for the situation to change radically.

Mr. Belhadj's letter calling for holy war urges security forces to "defend the choice of the people," and Algerians to join their "fighting brothers" to topple a regime that defies "human and divine laws."

In three years as a legal party, the FIS drew millions to its ranks, becoming a beacon in an economically strapped nation rampant with corruption after 30 years of socialist rule.

Harsh tactics are used to counter extremists.

In January, two army officers were executed for their ties to the Islamic underground, the first

death sentences carried out for political crimes since 1964.

Experts say the FIS must win over the army if it is to succeed. Numerous desertions have been reported and dozens of soldiers tried for links to extremists, but no sign has emerged that the upper echelons are wavering.

Even some FIS members express qualms about resorting to violence.

A former local council member in Algiers, removed from his post when the front was banned, said he could "never use violence personally."

"But I'll find another, non-violent way to revolt. It's not a lost cause. We're here and we're waiting."

He insisted on being identified only as Mohammed H.

Few hard facts are known about the strength and cohesiveness of the armed groups.

A FIS militant, speaking on condition of anonymity, said three umbrella groups were coordinating cells of about 10 people.

"When they catch someone and torture him, he'll only give nine other names," he said.

Mr. Kebir conceded the militants lack sufficient arms, but said they enjoy broad backing from the public, who hide them, feed and clothe them.

Honeymoon fades as Lebanese wonder about premier

By Mohammad Salam
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — When billionaire Rafik Hariri became prime minister, he was hailed as the saviour who would put Lebanon back on its feet.

But after the first 100 days, some Lebanese wonder whether he will lead them out of the economic ruin wrought by 16 years of civil war that ended in 1990.

Mr. Hariri, a 48-year-old Sunni Muslim who enjoys international prestige and the patronage of Saudi Arabia, says it is too early to judge.

Even critics acknowledge some notable achievements by Mr. Hariri's government since it was installed Nov. 2.

It has cracked down on price gougers and grafters. It is repairing roads and such services as electricity, water and waste disposal.

With Syrian and Saudi support, Mr. Hariri has restored some of the backbone the government lacked for so many years.

Lebanese hailed his refusal to accept hundreds of Palestinians deported by Israel on Dec. 17 as long overdue defiance of the Israelis, who occupy a strip of South Lebanon and regularly attack guerrilla targets in this country.

"Hariri is telling Israel and the whole world that we're a sovereign, independent state," state television said in a commentary. "There's a sense of pride that we haven't enjoyed for nearly 17 years."

In his quest to restore state authority over a lawless nation, Mr. Hariri sent soldiers into the predominantly Shiite Muslim slums of South Beirut in late December. It was the first time in nearly a decade that the army had ventured into the stronghold of Iranian-backed fundamentalist groups.

Fadi Shalqa, the premier's chief aide, says the government has signed reconstruction aid agreements worth about \$1 billion and has pledges of another \$750 million.

The Lebanese pound has risen in value since Mr. Hariri took office from a record low of 2,750 to the U.S. dollar to a stable 1,000, but prices have not come down in a country that imports 85 per cent of its basic needs. Some analysts say they have even increased about 7 per cent in recent weeks.

One of Mr. Hariri's main goals is to persuade Lebanese businessmen to bring back the estimated \$40 billion stashed in foreign banks. By all accounts, however, most are waiting to see whether he can restore confidence and get

the economy moving.

Arguments over reconstruction plans for downtown Beirut have made many wealthy Lebanese reluctant to invest in the project until the disputes are resolved.

There is mounting criticism of Mr. Hariri's grandiose plan to tear down central Beirut and build a \$2.65 billion metropolis. His Oger-Liban Co. would do the work, and reap most of the profits.

Najah Wakim, an opposition leader, accuses the government of not having "a development plan to increase the national income... merely a plan to reconstruct the services sector, which is not productive."

Mr. Hariri raised the hackles of old guard politicians by bringing close associates and trusted aides, 11 of them militaries, into the 30-member cabinet, which is half Muslim and half Christian.

He kept the finance portfolio, traditionally allocated to a Shiite Muslim, so as to have more control over reconstruction. His refusal to assign key ministries on the basis of religion or sect has angered politicians who benefited from the practice in the past.

Many of the 128 parliament members are unhappy with the premier's tight personal control over the decision making process.

"The government doesn't want us to legislate," said Mr. Wakim, the opposition leader. "Hariri doesn't believe in second opinions. He either does what he wants without any discussion with anybody, or cancels the job altogether. No one wants one party rule, because that's dictatorship. But what we're facing under Hariri is one-company rule."

Mr. Hariri's relationship with President Elias Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic, has deteriorated, delaying the appointment of senior officials to oversee the reconstruction.

"What's Hariri giving Lebanon?" asked Mustafa Saad, a parliament member from Sidon, the prime minister's hometown. "He invests one pound and harvests 300."

Mr. Saad said Mr. Hariri is "merely a businessman whose only interest in Lebanon is to invest and profit."

Mr. Hariri denies that, but persistent newspaper reports say he has spent up to \$200 million to buy property in downtown Beirut.

A banker, Abbas Shouman, asserted that Mr. Hariri's "personal investment means more jobs for the Lebanese."

He said the premier, whose personal fortune is estimated at \$4 billion, is "too rich to be corrupt."

Christopher to seek Golan timetable

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben Ari declined to comment on the report.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has demanded that Israel cede all of the Golan Heights, which it took from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and later declared "annexed."

But Mr. Peres said Israel still was only talking about a partial pullback from the Golan Heights.

"The Syrians want a full withdrawal, and Israel has made no such decision on full withdrawal," he said. "We have decided on a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, not from the Golan Heights."

Mr. Peres added that "the extent of the withdrawal will be influenced by the character of peace and security arrangements."

Mr. Peres also said Monday Mr. Christopher could clinch

Fighting kills 7 in south Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

Marine Colonel Fred Peck, the U.S. military spokesman, said the fighting began before dawn and ended Monday morning, killing seven Somalis and wounding 21.

He said U.S. and Belgian troops in the area were not involved in the conflict, which lasted five hours.

Col. Peck said an overnight curfew would be imposed, and that the troops' departure would probably be delayed only a day or two.

Valerie Place, 23, a nurse for the Irish relief agency Concern, was shot to death in an attack on her vehicle outside Afgoi, about 30 kilometres north of Mogadishu.

Col. Peck said the attack was the first since the arrival of U.S. troops in Mogadishu in October 1992.

Earlier Monday, Miss Place had been present when heavyweight boxing champion Riddick Bowe toured a Concern feeding centre in Mogadishu.

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Earlier Monday, Miss Place had



Phoenix Suns' Charles Barkley drives for the basket to score for the West All-Stars.

NBA West beats East in All-Star game

SALT LAKE CITY (R) — Karl Malone had 28 points and John Stockton 15 assists to lead the Western Conference to a 135-132 overtime victory against the Eastern Conference in the National Basketball Association's All-Star game Sunday.

Hometown heroes as members of the Utah Jazz, Malone and Stockton were named co-most valuable players, marking just the second time in All-Star history that the award was shared.

Elgin Baylor of Minnesota and Bob Pettit of St. Louis won the award in 1959.

Stockton had four points in overtime and Dan Majerle and Charles Barkley of the Phoenix Suns each sank key three-point baskets in the extra time.

Scottie Pippen sank two foul shots for the East as the players were leaving the court to bring his team to 132.

Majerle's three-pointer gave the West the lead for good at 124-123 and Barkley increased the West advantage to 131-125 with 1:28 left.

The East forced overtime on a 15-foot jumper by Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks with eight seconds left in regulation. Ewing was wide open after taking a pass from Michael Jordan. Jordan finished with 30 points.

Tim Hardaway of the Golden State Warriors missed a foul-line jump shot in the final seconds that would have won the game for the West in regulation.

The All-Star game went to overtime for the fifth time and the first since 1987. The East leads the All-Time series, 27-16.

"It's great, especially winning the MVP (most valuable player) in front of our fans," Malone said. "We used the (Utah) Jazz plays in overtime and that's what won the game. This is a big thrill for me."

Winning coach, Paul Westphal, who regularly guides the Phoenix Suns, said: "The home team should win the All-Star game."

"Barkley is mad as me because I took him out in the final minute in regulation for my best free throw shooters when they were fouling us."

Kasparov warms up for Short

LINARES (R) — World chess champion Gary Kasparov warms up for his forthcoming title defense against Britain's Nigel Short in the strongest chess tournament ever held, starting in the Andalusian town of Linares this week.

Pairings for the first round of the 11th Linares Grand Master Trophy will be announced at an opening ceremony.

It is expected to be Kasparov's only appearance in a major tournament before his world championship match against Short.

The 14-man lineup includes 11 of the world's top players, according to computer rankings known as ELO-ratings. Kasparov, 29, from Azerbaijan, tops the list with his record rating of 2,805.

The most notable absentee is Short, who despite his status as Kasparov's world title contender, has an ELO-rating of 2,655 that puts him outside the world's top 10.

Asked why he was not playing, Short said he didn't want to play in what was practically a championship of ex-Soviet players.

Kasparov is joined by his old sparring partner, Russian former world champion Anatoly Karpov, 41, ranked second at 2,725.

Ukraine's Vassily Ivanchuk, 23 (2,710), is a fancied contender having won the 1991 Linares trophy ahead of Kasparov.

Sharing third place with Ivanchuk is Indian star Viswanathan Anand, 23 (2,710). He and fifth-ranked Belarusian Boris Gelfand, 24 (2,690) shared first place in the Moscow Grand Master Tournament last year.

Russian prodigy Vladimir Kramnik, at 17 (2,685) the world's second youngest grand master after the 16-year-old Hungarian Judit Polgar, is tipped by Kasparov as a potential pretender to his title.

Another strong youngster is Latvian Alexei Shirov, 19 (2,670).

Significantly, in a sport known as a young man's game, only one of the top 10 — Karpov — is over 30.

Stich wins Eurocard Open

STUTTGART (AP) — Michael Stich beat Richard Krajicek 4-5, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 7-5 to win the \$2.25 million Eurocard Open tennis tournament Sunday and earn one of the biggest purses on the ATP Tour.

The German collected \$355,000 for the match that lasted three hours and 46 minutes and ended on a controversial note.

The German also collected 414 points for his victory and will move into the top 10 ranks when the ATP Tour rankings come out.

"This is a step on the ladder. It's taking me where I want to be at the end of the year — in the top five," said Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion who began the week ranked 13th.

In December, Stich earned \$2 million by winning the Grand Slam Cup in Munich, an international tennis federation sanctioned event that is not part of the ATP Tour.

The \$2.25 million Eurocard Open is the richest event on the year, except for the season-ending ATP Tour world championship in November.

"I would have been happy with much less money because I've been waiting for a victory for a long time," Stich said after capturing his seventh ATP tour title.

His last win on the tour before Sunday was in June in Rosmalen, the Netherlands.

"It's nice to win a tight match and to win here in Germany," Stich said.

In a close contest between two players who are ranked near each other, Stich, the sixth seed, had a slow start, dropping his serve in the opening game.

Stich clinched the match off Krajicek's second serve, hitting a deep volley into the corner.

Stich said the call came at an unfortunate time, but said one of his own serves was overruled earlier in the fifth set.

"The ball was clearly out," said Stich, who was a semifinalist at the Australian Open in January. Krajicek, who was playing in



Michael Stich

his first final of the year after failing to get past the second round in his first four events, declined to show up for the news conference and was fined \$1,000.

Lendl hands Woodforde Comcast title

Australian Mark Woodforde won the \$700,000 Comcast U.S. Indoor tennis tournament when fourth seeded Ivan Lendl retired after straining his left side with the score 5-4, 0-15 Sunday.

The ninth-ranked Lendl was running for a drop shot on the last point of the ninth game when the injury happened. After a trainer rubbed liniment on Lendl's

he continued to play.

But Lendl obviously was in pain, barely dropping a shot over the net which Woodforde smashed into the open court.

Lendl tossed the ball to see again, but let the ball drop. Shaking his head, Lendl walked to the net and shook Woodforde's hand.

Woodforde is the first unseeded player to win this tournament.

"I'm very disappointed it hap-

pened again," said Lendl, in a statement released to the press. "I moved forward to the drop shot and I just felt it go."

The American, who won \$53,200, was just returning to the tour following a groin injury suffered in mid-November. His first tournament back was January's Australian Open where he lost in the first round.

Lendl will be examined at home in Greenwich, Connecticut, Monday to determine the seriousness of the injury. The last time the American withdrew from a final was in 1981.

"It's a pull on his left side right below the rib cage," trainer Bill Whit said.

The victory for the 41st-ranked Lendl, his fourth career title, earned him \$96,000. He did lose a set on his march to the final and defeated two seeds — number six Francisco Clavet in the first round and number three Michael Chang in the quarterfinals.

"I'll take it. I'm not bothered by it," said Woodforde, who added that it was unfortunate Lendl was injured. "I'm ecstatic I still ended up the winner. I'm just happy. I'm over the moon."

Juventus eye Sauzee as Marseille go top

PARIS (R) — Reports that Juventus are interested in signing Franck Sauzee did no harm to the Marseille midfielder, who fired home a spectacular goal as his team went to the top of the French League at the weekend.

Juventus, having lost out to Inter Milan in the battle for Ajax Amsterdam's Dennis Bergkamp, were said to have turned their attention to the Marseille pair of Sauzee and Croatian striker Alen Boksic.

If the Italian club were watching Marseille's 2-0 home win over Lens, they would not have been disappointed. Sauzee, whose substitute form has been behind his side's rise to the top with five wins in a row, played superbly and his goal was a gem.

The immediate consideration is Marseille's visit to previous leaders Monaco Thursday. Monaco lost for the first time in 13 matches when they went down 1-0 in Nantes to an 18th minute goal by Croatian sweeper Zoran Vucic,

falling two points behind.

The goal was the first conceded by veteran keeper Jean-Luc Ettori in 10 games but he still broke the french record of keeping his net intact by six minutes, taking his mark to 896.

More alarming for Monaco was another listless performance from their shot-shy attack with Germany's Juergen Klinsmann and company failing to score for the fourth game in a row.

Monaco dropped to third as Paris St. Germain also moved above them on goal differences despite a disappointing 0-0 home draw with Toulouse in which Liberian striker George Weah missed a penalty.

The Parisians blamed the Parc Des Princes pitch as disintegrated alarmingly in recent games and has to be rebuilt this week.

Barcelona and Atletico Madrid scraped badly needed wins in the Spanish Soccer League at the weekend but failed to impress

their coaches.

Barcelona won 1-0 at bottom-club Real Burgos, while Atletico beat Cadiz 2-0.

Barcelona's Johan Cruyff said: "Barcelona were weak. Burgos were dragging their heels, doing what they could and Barcelona failed to make the most of their opportunities."

Pastoriza took over earlier this month after the sacking of predecessor Luis Aragones.

Even Real Madrid's 3-0 win at Albacete gave only moderate satisfaction to coach Benito Floro.

"The goalless first half was complicated by Fernando Munoz's (Nando) sending off and Albacete's strong performance," he said. "But in the second they played like real champions."

Deportivo Coruna continue to enjoy life at the top. Their 5-1 win over Real Sociedad was their 15th in 23 league games. They remain two points ahead of Real and four clear of Barcelona.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Something may linger from last evening's activities that could compel your attention this morning. Just as well — you'll likely get the chance to shake it with some exerted movement as moon enters Aries late a.m.

various activities in which you have an interest and decide upon those which give you greatest scope to basic nature.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A magnanimous friend can be the one who shows you how you can gain the intimate objectives that you desire with the least amount of effort on your part.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put aside your investigative trend and secrecy and go to one in power and state directly what that person can do to back your capabilities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to be off to some new scenes and surroundings where you will be able to add to your present store of knowledge so you can be more a success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be less reticent and disciplined and show special affection for your mate as well as others towards whom you are drawn and want long time alliances.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You find it possible to get one of considerable experience and breadth of vision to aid you to build a more secure structure to your existence.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day to spare more time improving your surroundings and adding touches of color, art, music, beauty or other culture to them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Use this day to round out your awareness of financial matters and the best means by which you can get a greater amount of this world's goods.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take some time out now to show you know how to project yourself before the general public and you greatly add to your reputation, standing in the community.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A good time to shift out the

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"Okay now...no more whining about lost keys!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIVOS

KARNC

BLUTSY

TOOCLE

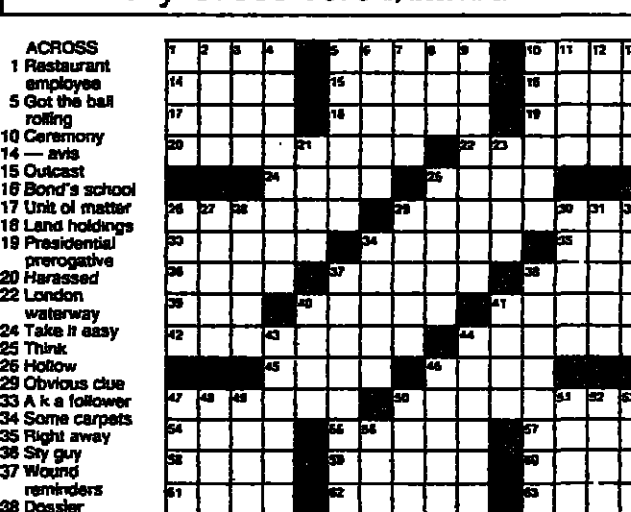


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELOPE SURLY BOUGHT FEMALE Answer: Something in the cards when the wife is away — A FULL HOUSE

THE Daily Crossword by Isaac Miller



- ACROSS
- 1 Restaurant employee
 - 5 Got the ball rolling
 - 10 Ceremony
 - 14 Lure
 - 15 Outcast
 - 18 Bond's school
 - 17 Unit of matter
 - 18 Land holdings
 - 19 Presidential prerogative
 - 20 Harassed
 - 21 London waterway
 - 24 Take it easy
 - 25 Think
 - 26 Hollow
 - 29 Obvious clue
 - 33 A k a follower
 - 34 Some carpets
 - 35 Right away
 - 36 Sly guy
 - 37 Wound reminders
 - 38 Dossier
 - 39 Wayfarer's lodging
 - 40 Musical problem
 - 41 Gauntlet
 - 42 Open formally
 - 43 Profited
 - 45 Fit of pique
 - 46 Pointed and
 - 47 Villier
 - 50 Exporters
 - 54 Lame land
 - 55 Become alert
 - 57 Sunscreen additive
 - 58 Wise
 - 59 Lewis Carroll creation
 - 60 Reapers's river
 - 61 Got by
 - 62 Tugs
 - 66 Donahue's specialty
- DOWN
- 1 Grouch
 - 2 Defeat
 - 3 Intake of breath
 - 4 Conventional
 - 5 Darwin's ship
 - 6 Surpass
 - 7 Encircle
 - 8 Pub quaff
 - 9 R.A.
 - 10 Make over
 - 11 Bit of news
 - 12 Haul
 - 13 Baseball's
 - 21 Ages and ages
 - 22 Layers
 - 23 Log
 - 26 Fastidious
 - 27 Solitary
 - 28 Article of food
 - 29 Lead role
 - 30 Burger garnish
 - 31 Work out
 - 32 Suit fabric
 - 34 George C. or
 - 37 Subway access
 - 38 Saucy
 - 40 Teen's woe
 - 41 Intake of breath
 - 43 Published
 - 44 Escorts
 - 46 Chess call
 - 47 Church area
 - 48 Suit
 - 49 Pro
 - 50 Swindle
 - 51 Director Kazan
 - 52 Bagel, for one
 - 53 Search for
 - 55 Chewing-connector

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Bubka sets pole vault mark again

MOSCOW (AP) — Sergei Bubka broke the world indoor pole vault record for the second time in eight days, extending it one more centimeter to 6.15 metres (20 feet 2 inches) during a meet in his home city of Donetsk, Ukraine, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. It was the 18th time he has broken the indoor mark and 34th time he has broken the event's record both indoor and outdoor. He raised the mark to 6.14 (20 1/4) in Lievin, France, on Feb. 20 at an international meet. Athletes from Holland, Italy, Russia, the United States, Ukraine, France and Kazakhstan took part in the meet in Donetsk.

Piggott to miss Hong Kong race

HONG KONG (R) — Legendary English jockey Lester Piggott, making a comeback from a serious accident, said Monday he will skip a Hong Kong race meeting Wednesday after cutting his eye. The 57-year-old, who is in Hong Kong on a one-month riding stint, told reporters he was injured Saturday when Beat Them Up gave him a glancing blow with its head. Piggott received three stitches and pulled out of Wednesday's evening meeting at happy valley as a precaution. Piggott, making a comeback from injury at the Breeders Cup meeting in the United States last November, was treated in the first aid room at the Sha Tin track.

Kenyan crosscountry star faces ban

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya's five-times world crosscountry champion John Ngugi faces a four-year ban by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) for refusing a random dope test, a senior IAAF official said Monday. Ngugi, winner of the 1988 Olympics 5,000 metres, told reporters he had declined the test because the IAAF team of doctors who visited his rural home at Nyahururu, 300 km north of Nairobi, failed to identify themselves. John Weston, leader of the IAAF team of doctors, told reporters the Kenyan star declined a random test last week and he was forwarding his report to the IAAF for action. "Under the rules Ngugi could be suspended for up to four years by the IAAF for declining the test," Weston said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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HELD UP AGAIN

North-South vulnerable. South not at all? If you do hold up, do you do so on the first tricks or later in the play?

NORTH
♠ J 5 4 3
♥ K Q 10 9
♦ A 3 2
♣ 2

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 7
♥ A 5 4
♦ Q 8 5
♣ J 10 9 8

SOUTH
♠ K Q 2
♥ J 3 2
♦ K 10 9
♣ A K 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Hold-up plays are a fascinating field that has not been explored deeply enough. We are indebted to Gerry Fox of Napa, Calif., for this hand.

North-South reach a normal three-no-trump contract after a routine auction. When North's two club major-suit inquiry failed to un-

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



WRITER WANTED
 ny seeks to hire a full-time team of professionals produc-
 ls on a wide range of subjects,
 y, maternal and child health,
 y, archaeology, and tourism.
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Relief flights land in Sarajevo; aid boycott ends

SARAJEVO (R) — Relief flights began landing again at Sarajevo Monday as the city authorities formally lifted a boycott of U.N. aid.

The Bosnian government had already announced an end to the boycott, mounted in sympathy with tens of thousands of Muslims cut off by rebel Serbs in the east of the country.

But the city council, which initiated the refusal to accept supplies, said it would wait for the safe arrival of a U.N. relief convoy in the Muslim-held eastern settlement of Zepa.

The Serbs allowed the convoy through to Zepa Sunday.

A second U.N. convoy, due to set out from Belgrade Monday with emergency supplies for Muslims in the eastern town of Gorazde, was postponed for a day at the request of the Serbs.

They asked for the delay because a funeral was being held Monday for Serbs who had been found in graves near the convoy's route. They say the Serbs were killed by Muslims and tensions are running high in the area.

Lyndall Sachs, an official of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said the Gorazde convoy would now leave Belgrade Tuesday.

The Bosnian Serbs, who have promised safe passage for the 12 trucks, asked for the delay because local people were angry.

"We're quite willing to go along with a reasonable request like this," Mr. Sachs said.

About 40 bodies have so far been found in the graves on a wooded ridge in near the village of Kamenica.

Serb forces said the exhumations had to be called off Sunday because the area came under shellfire from Muslim-led Bosnian troops.

Mr. Sachs said the Gorazde convoy may be further delayed after it sets out because snowfalls in eastern Bosnia could make it difficult to check for mines in the path of the trucks.

U.N. Refugee Commissioner Sadako Ogata announced at the weekend that her agency was resuming full operations in Bosnia after receiving assurances that the country's warring factions would no longer block aid convoys or food distribution.

Mrs. Ogata suspended deliveries of food and medicines in Sarajevo and eastern parts of the country last week because of the Serb blockade and the boycott in the Bosnian capital. She was overruled by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali two days later.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic announced a unilateral ceasefire, along with the end of the boycott Saturday.

Sarajevo Radio accused the Serbs of ignoring the truce after shelling of Muslim-held districts of the city Sunday.

But General Philippe Morillon, commander of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, said the ceasefire declared by the Bosnians appeared to be having some effect because the shellfire was at a lower intensity than before.

The city was reported relatively quiet overnight.

Gen. Morillon said he was attempting to set up a joint commission with the combatants to try to consolidate the ceasefire.

He also said he was going to meet officers from Bosnian, Croat and Serb forces in a bid to implement an agreement to open humanitarian corridors in and out of the city, at least for civilians.

The U.N. commander said the proposal had been agreed by the combatants in December but had never been put into effect.

"It will be the objective to lift the siege of Sarajevo by opening three 'blue routes': One to Mostar, the other to Zenica, the other to Zvornik," he said.

"It could be done in a very few days with the existing forces on the ground."

In Croatia, Zagreb Radio said Serb forces holding the Krajina enclave fired rockets into the Adriatic port of Zadar early Monday and shelled the town's defence lines.

Croatian military positions around Karlovac, 50 kilometres south of the capital Zagreb, were also bombarded, it added.

Fighting between Croats and Serbs in Croatia resumed last month when the Croatian army attacked Krajina to recapture a strategic bridge and a hydro-electric dam.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Bill Clinton plans to meet Dr. Ghali Tuesday to discuss getting more relief supplies to Bosnia, a White House spokesman said.

Dee Dee Myers told reporters Sunday she would not expect an immediate decision on the possible use of a U.S.-led airstrip of supplies to isolated towns blocked by Serb forces.

Mr. Clinton said Sunday the United States was consulting other members of the U.N. Security Council on getting more relief supplies to Bosnia.

The leadership could well reverse course after mid-April, when U.S. and South Korean troops end their annual Team Spirit joint military exercise on the peninsula, the analysts said.

North Korea calls Team Spirit a nuclear war dress rehearsal.

In its lengthy report published overnight by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), Pyongyang's Atomic Energy Ministry accused the IAEA of "spreading rumours that we are refusing inspection of the two nuclear-related facilities in violation of the safeguards agreement and we are not allowing a visit to the nuclear site, breaking the promise with the agency."

This, said the ministry, was preposterous.

"The two sites referred to by the agency side are military facilities which have nothing to do with nuclear activities and, accordingly, we are not obliged to show them to the agency," the report added.

Korea-watchers in Japan, where the possibility of Pyongyang acquiring nuclear arms is taken very seriously, could not rule out the possibility that North Korea was bent on confrontation.

"If North Korea continued to refuse for long, then it could face 'challenge inspections' by the IAEA or sanctions by the U.N. Security Council," said Masao Okonogi of Keio University.

"North Korea is entering an impasse...no-one, not even old allies China and Russia, wants to deal with it in such adamant mood..."

The Security Council could impose economic sanctions, barring member nations from trade with North Korea, he said.

"If and when North Korea is cornered and sees no escape, it may change its position completely," he said.

N. Korea defies calls for new nuclear site checks

TOKYO (R) — North Korea dramatically turned up the heat Monday in its blazing row with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over nuclear inspections.

A Pyongyang government report accused "some people of the IAEA secretariat" of bowing to U.S. pressure by demanding that its inspectors be given access to two North Korean military sites unconnected to its nuclear programme.

The report was issued just hours before the U.N. agency's board of governors was due to meet in Vienna.

At the same time, the official daily Rodong Sinmun issued a stark warning that the isolated Stalinist state would refuse the inspectors entry, even at the price of confrontation with the world community.

"If a 'special inspection' or 'sanctions' are forced on us and the inviolable soil of our country is infringed upon by big powers, it would result in plunging the whole land of the North and the South into the holocaust of a war," Rodong Sinmun's Sunday commentary said.

North Korea, which angrily denies U.S. and South Korean charges that it is secretly developing nuclear weapons, agreed reluctantly last year to allow IAEA inspection of what it calls its civilian nuclear facilities.

Now, it complains, the agency has unilaterally and abusively added two more sites to the agreed list of facilities to be inspected. It insists it will not comply.

Korea analysts in Japan said such a hardline stance could put North Korea in confrontation with the U.N. Security Council and lay it open to the threat of disastrous economic sanctions.

They added, however, that Pyongyang's defiance might just be brinkmanship.

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The destruction of the mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya, which became the focus of the Hindu nationalist campaign for power, and the religious riots plunged India into its worst crisis since independence from Britain in 1947.

The government has also put scores of Hindu nationalists in preventive detention in its bid to head off a rally that many residents of the capital fear would spark violence.

The decision to drop Mr. Yang, 85, had been widely expected. Western diplomats believe the man most likely to replace him is Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, who will serve in both positions concurrently.

German State Secretary Dieter Vogel said Denmark was due to hold a second referendum on the treaty in May after the first poll failed to endorse it.

He said the British House of Commons was expected to take up the issue between June and July this year.

"Expectations from Britain and Denmark are good," Mr. Vogel told Reuters. "Opinion polls in Denmark have shown a favourable trend."

Mr. Kohl said he expected four more European countries to join the EC in 1995.

"We expect Norway, Sweden, Austria and Finland to join us. So we will have that many more members in 1995," Mr. Kohl said.

"We will speed up the movement (toward political unity)."

Mr. Kohl, on the first leg of a five-nation Asian tour, invited India to increase its business with the EC and said Germany was a good conduit.

In his arrival statement Friday

he said protectionist policies in international trade were harmful and warned against erecting a fortress Europe.

"It is crucial for Europe not to look inwards and not to deal only with itself but to open our eyes to what is happening in the rest of the world to avoid erecting fortress Europe, particularly in trade area," Mr. Kohl said.

British officials said they were surprised by Mr. Kohl's comments.

"We are checking these reports," one government official said Monday but added that Mr. Kohl's remarks seemed out of step with earlier statements that he wanted the 12 EC members to go forward together.

The official said Prime Minister John Major had spoken with Mr. Kohl by phone before he set off last week for India.

Mr. Jiang has been named by 88-year-old Supreme leader Deng Xiaoping as the "core" of the political succession. Elevating him to the largely ceremonial position of president would give him an international role denied him in his current party position because of the collapse of the Socialist Bloc.

Mr. Yang's five-year term ends this year and diplomats say he is being replaced mainly because of his advanced age. However, some speculated that Mr. Deng would find his departure convenient for political reasons.

"It's part of the sidelining of Yang," said one envoy. "He's still pretty sprightly, but the job is for five years, so it's a good time to get rid of him now."

Mr. Yang's half-brother, Yang Baibing, was unceremoniously dumped from his top military posts during the Communist Party's 14th congress last October. It is widely believed that Mr. Deng was afraid he was building a personal support base in the army and preparing to challenge for supreme power.

It is unclear what role, if any, President Yang had in this scheming. One envoy said his replacement "will give credence to concerns that the Yangs were acting as a team."

Mr. Jiang heads the powerful Central Military Commission and adding the presidency to his portfolio would concentrate his power even further.

The Ta Kung Pao said Mr. Deng had been nominated as a candidate for the People's Liberation Army to attend the NPC session that opens on March 15. It is not clear whether Mr. Deng, who has retired from all state and party positions, would turn up.

The newspaper said Premier Li Peng was a congress delegate for Peking. Mr. Li's tenure is also ending, but there are few firm predictions of whether he will stay or go.

Mr. Li was slow to embrace Mr. Deng's campaign launched in January last year to "speed up the



Police make an arrest after a crowd disturbance outside South Sefion Magistrates Court as two ten-year-old boys were charged with the murder of James Bulger (AFP photo)

2 10-year-old boys charged with toddler's murder in Britain

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — An angry crowd screaming abuse rushed a van carrying two boys charged with murdering a toddler from court Monday in a case which has outraged Britain.

Police made five arrests.

More than 300 people gathered outside the court, where the boys accused of murdering two-year-old James Bulger were remanded in local authority care until their next court appearance on March 3. The mood turned violent when the two youngsters were driven away.

"Bastards bastards" screamed a section of the crowd. A rock and an egg were thrown and some people hammered on the side of the van with their fists.

After the arrests were swiftly made by waiting policemen, people turned on the police, waving their fists and chanting: "Let them go let them go," referring to the five who had been arrested.

The officers withdrew and the crowd dispersed.

"We're here for James. We're sick with grief and we want to show some respect," said one man outside the court with his wife and two children. "We're all devastated by what happened to poor little James."

The dead toddler's parents and police had called for calm after a near-riot last week when an enraged crowd tried to grab a 12-year-old suspect whom police had seized in a high-profile raid.

Bulger's killing 10 days ago — one of just six cases in the past decade of murder involving child defendants under age 14 — has stunned Britons and touched off a national debate about rising crime and social decay in inner cities.

Emotions in Liverpool have been running high since the toddler's body was found by a railway line a week ago after he

was separated from his mother in a shopping mall. A security video showed him walking off hand-in-hand with two older boys.

Police had been ready for trouble.

"The last 10 days have been stressful for the whole of Merseyside," Police Superintendent Paul Burrell said. "We ask all of Merseyside to remain calm as by doing so we can greatly assist the legal process."

During the six-minute hearing, the accused boys spoke only to confirm their ages and identities and showed no obvious signs of distress. The boys were formally charged by police Saturday.

One boy sat with a lawyer and a social worker while the other was accompanied by his father and a lawyer. The boy with his father yawned frequently and occasionally glanced towards his co-accused.

As is normal in youth courts the public did not attend.

Angola says reinforcements still heading to Huambo despite clashes

LUANDA (R) — An Angolan army relief column heading to the besieged city of Huambo clashed with rebels on the way but was still pressing on, a military official said Monday.

The two sides fought about 100 kilometres from Huambo, where the decisive battle in Angola's renewed civil war has raged for six weeks, he said.

"There were confrontations but the column is continuing to Huambo," he said.

UNITA rebels said they had completely destroyed the government column in a three-hour battle Sunday. Its commander was among the dead, UNITA said in a statement.

The military official dismissed the claim as propaganda.

An estimated 10,000 people have been killed in the battle for Huambo. Once Angola's second city and the former UNITA headquarters, it was on the brink of collapse two weeks ago.

The government and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) fought each other for 16 years after independence from Portugal in 1975.

A peace agreement signed in Lisbon in May 1991 crumbled when UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi rejected his defeat in U.N.-supervised elections in September. Full-scale war returned at the end of December.

U.N. diplomats say the government and UNITA will probably meet in the Ethiopian capital

Addis Ababa this week to restart peace talks.

A UNITA representative in Luanda said the meeting could take place Thursday or Friday.

Antonio Monteiro, Portuguese ambassador to Angola, said on Portuguese Radio (TSF) that military reports indicated fighting in Huambo had escalated to "frightening proportions."

Humanitarian workers and U.N. officials have been unable to approach the city for over six weeks, despite urgent requests for a ceasefire.

Diplomats from Portugal, the United States and Russia monitoring peace accords were scheduled to meet Tuesday in Lisbon, Portugal, to try to find a solution to the fighting.

Kohl sees EC union without Britain, Denmark

NEW DELHI (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Monday at least 10 European countries would go ahead with their unity plans if either Britain or Denmark failed to endorse the Maastricht Treaty within six months.

"The European Community will go ahead to pursue European unity with 10 nations," Mr. Kohl told a news conference at the end of a four-day visit to India.

"I hope and trust that ratifications will come from all countries within six months," he said. "In case they don't, we will go ahead anyway."

"I am firmly determined not to stop the process for one day," he said.

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failed to endorse it.

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Yeltsin is being reduced to figurehead — aide

MOSCOW (R) — An aide of Boris Yeltsin charged Monday the president's opponents had reduced him virtually to a figurehead leader akin to the queen of England and said a power struggle could lead to Russia's disintegration.

Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the president's Federal Information Centre, said attacks by the conservative legislature on Mr. Yeltsin's power were encouraging breakaway trends in Russia's regions.

"If the executive power (the presidency) is not strengthened, this will lead unavoidably to the disintegration of Russia," Mr. Poltoranin said in a statement issued by ITAR-TASS News Agency.

Mr. Poltoranin, who has a long-standing feud with the parliament chairman, lost his position as deputy prime minister in November under pressure.

Mr. Yeltsin's powers have been steadily eroded over the last three months by the Russian legislature led by its conservative Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov.

A Congress forced him to abandon his cabinet chief, Yegor Gaidar, 10 weeks ago and name a new premier, Viktor Chernomyrdin. The conservative success raised uncertainty over the ultimate fate of Mr. Yeltsin's radical reforms.

The conflict has flared again this month, with opposition growing to an April referendum Mr. Yeltsin had hoped would end Congress's power over government. The president believes he should have freedom to choose his own government and dispose of federal property still under broad parliamentary control.

"Today they have cut back the president's powers, turning him virtually into a 'queen of England'...the Congress as an instrument of power is not capable of saving Russia from dismemberment," Mr. Poltoranin said.

The British queen rules under a constitutional monarchy which makes her titular supreme authority in the land, but with very little real political power.

Mr. Yeltsin, during his long struggle for power against Mikhail Gorbachev, once suggested that the Soviet president's position be reduced to that of a "queen of England."

Talks between representatives of Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Khasbulatov at the weekend brought no compromise on power-sharing.

Mr. Poltoranin said the planned referendum might be the last chance to solve the power issue by peaceful means. But the poll, now viewed with scepticism even by some Yeltsin allies, looks increasingly unlikely to take place.

Despite rain, Rio's carnival parade far from a washout

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The incessant rain and deep puddles were not enough to dampen the spirits of Brazil's carnival revelers as Rio De Janeiro's glittering parade of samba schools got underway Sunday night. The parade competition, which lasts until dawn and then continues Monday night, is the highlight of Rio's pre-lenten carnival, which began last Thursday and ends on Ash Wednesday. As white costumes turned black and dancers slid in the mud that accumulated in the samba stadium built for the event, the marchers appeared to sing louder. "The rain does not bother us. The harder it rains, the more spirit we have," said Ana Cristina Alves Pereira of the Vila Isabel School. The rain was a welcome relief for those who must dance for an hour in the sweltering heat. "The rain cools us off," said Vanda Viana Da Silva, also of the Vila Isabel School. The Unidos Da Ponte School kicked off the parade with an appropriate carnival theme — the history of masks. The first float illustrated the court of Rei Momo, the king of carnival and the school continued with a golden sphinx and Venetian masks. Each school is judged on a variety of items, ranging from costumes and music to theme.

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